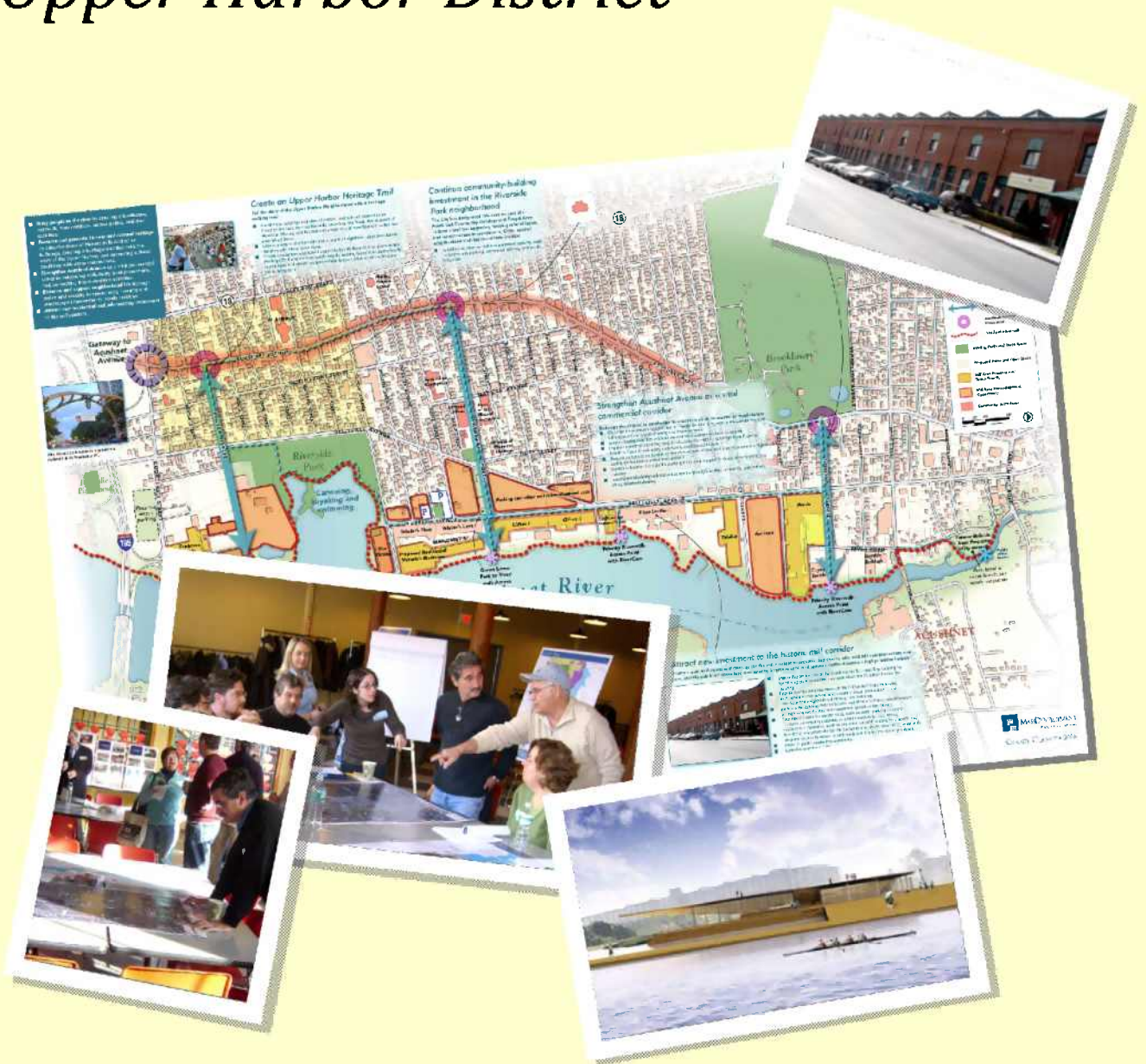


City of New Bedford Upper Harbor District



Prepared for: The City of New Bedford
Prepared by: MassDevelopment with Goody Clancy Associates, Inc.
Date: December 21, 2008

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Acknowledgements

Mayor

Honorable Scott W. Lang

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Matthew A. Morrissey

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David A. Kennedy and Jill Mclean

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Kristin Decas

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Introduction

This Final District Development Action Plan for New Bedford's Upper Harbor has been prepared to guide the implementation of the planning vision established for the district as expressed in the Upper Harbor Vision Plan that began with a community workshop in February 2008 that attracted more than 160 participants. Facilitated by planning consultant Goody Clancy, the goal of the process was to engage a broad range of stakeholders to create a unified community-based "vision" for the future of the Upper Harbor area, stretching from Fairhaven Mills north to the Wood Street bridge and from Acushnet Avenue east to the river's edge.

Key recommendations of the plan included an emphasis on public access to and along the riverfront, facade and streetscape improvements along Acushnet Avenue, and community-appropriate redevelopment of underutilized mill buildings along the Acushnet River.

Additional input to the planning process was collected during a series of community input meetings held over the summer of 2008, and recently completed survey work of the river walk area.

Using the eight primary objectives from the vision plan, this action plan lays out a series of short-, medium-, and long-term actions to be undertaken by a number of entities including the City of New Bedford, the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC), and others.

Short term actions are defined as those that can be reasonably implemented within a three year timeframe, or by 2011. In many instances, these short-term recommendations are already underway or completed and therefore designated in the plan with a checkmark ("☑"). Medium term actions are defined as actions that can be completed within a four to ten year timeframe. Long term actions will likely require in excess of 10 years to accomplish.

Likely responsible parties and estimated costs have been identified for each task. In instances where a task will be managed by an existing City of New Bedford department as part of its regular responsibilities, no additional costs are shown. In all cases, every effort has been made to push any new staffing requirements into the "long term" category. It is expected that many of these recommended actions will need to be accomplished in the near and medium term by dedicated volunteer groups.

Our Vision for New Bedford's Upper Harbor is to connect people to a cleaned-up Acushnet River and waterfront while celebrating cultural and historic heritage and strengthening Upper Harbor neighborhoods and businesses.

- Bring people to the river by creating a boathouse, riverwalk, view corridors, access points, and river activities.
- Preserve and promote historic and cultural heritage by adaptive reuse of historic mills and other buildings, creating a heritage trail that tells the story of the Upper Harbor, and enhancing cultural traditions with water connections.
- Strengthen Acushnet Avenue as a vital commercial street by enhancing walkability, joint promotions, and connecting it to waterfront activities.
- Enhance and support neighborhood life through police and security improvements, housing and streetscape improvements, youth activities.
- Attract new residential and job-creating investment to the mill corridor.

Come Down to the River! — Our Community's Vision for the New Bedford Upper Harbor

Create an Upper Harbor Heritage Trail

Tell the story of the Upper Harbor Neighborhood with a heritage walking trail:

- Identify key buildings and sites of historic and cultural interest to be linked by the trail, such as the mills, churches, the Feast, the Museum of Madeiran History, and the first settlement site of New Bedford on the river near Wood Street.
- Create a map of the trail with descriptions of significant sites and identify the sites with interpretive signs.
- Create a neighborhood-based Upper Harbor Walking Club to promote the Heritage Trail and increase public health, seeking funds from public health foundations and similar sources to help support creation of the trail and the walking club.



Continue community-building investment in the Riverside Park neighborhood

The City has designated this area as part of a North End Community Development Target Area to fund storefront upgrades, housing rehabilitation, and infrastructure improvements. Other needed neighborhood stabilization efforts include:

- Initiatives to improve real and perceived security, such as community policing, enhanced lighting, and youth programs.

Improve the streetscape on "riverview streets" that connect the neighborhood to the River

Designation of a few streets as primary connectors to the river will make river access visible to Acushnet Avenue visitors and to neighborhood residents:

- Use simple signage or banners to identify streets that lead to river access points, with future plans for streetscape improvements.
- Focus first on a few key streets, such as Sawyer Street, Hathaway Street and Howard Avenue.

Draw people to the river with programs and events

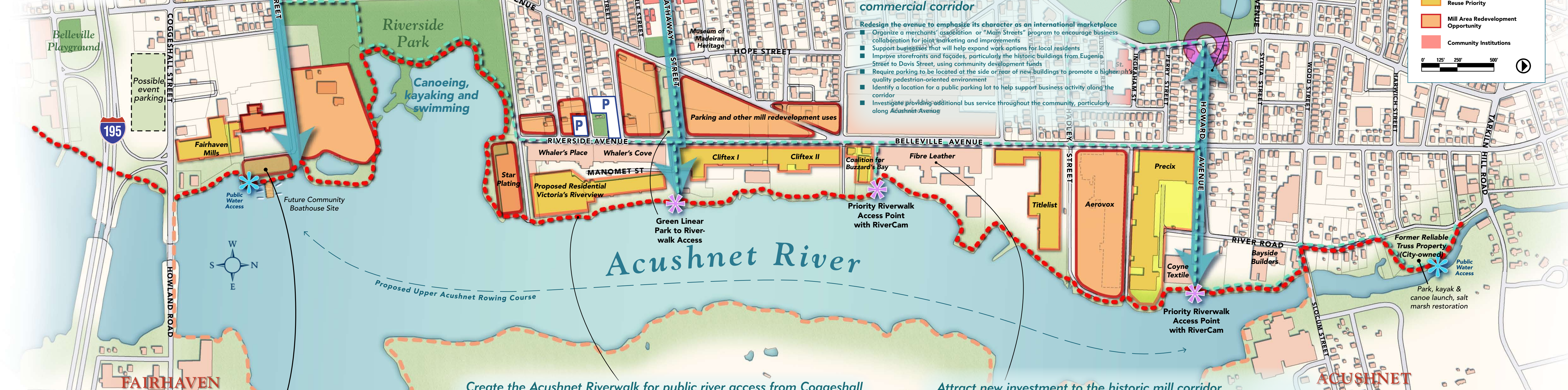
The Feast already brings thousands of people to the neighborhood annually. Draw them to the river at other times with fun and exciting activities:

- Host free outdoor movie screenings, concerts, festivals, a farmers' market, and other events in Riverside Park and other riverfront areas.
- Encourage extension of the Feast activities to the mills and the river.
- Develop programs for children and youth focused on local history and the Upper Harbor environment.
- Install "RiverCams"—video cameras with live video feeds to the internet—at activity points on the river for security and to raise awareness about the river.

Gateway to Acushnet Avenue



This distinct arch serves as a gateway to Federal Hill in Providence, RI.



Create a Community Boathouse and other opportunities for water-oriented activities



Plan for water activities as the river cleanup moves towards completion:

- Build a boathouse and ramp (initial phase could include walk access only) at Riverside Park.
- Develop a rowing and boating program.
- Establish new parkland, public amenities and a public launch site for kayaks and canoes at the City-owned Reliable Truss property.
- Organize river races, catch and release fishing, and volunteer water stewardship activities.

Create the Acushnet Riverwalk for public river access from Coggeshall Street to Tarklin Hill Road



Work with the City and property owners to establish a continuous Riverwalk:

- Create a wide river promenade and associated amenities – viewing areas, open spaces, natural shoreline plantings, etc.
- Work cooperatively with property owners to provide river access.
- Identify potential early segments – demonstration projects.
- Secure public easements as part of Chapter 91 compliance.
- Identify and secure funding for design and construction.
- Over the long term, work with the Towns of Fairhaven and Acushnet to extend a Riverwalk loop to the other side of the river via Howland Road and Slocum Street.

Attract new investment to the historic mill corridor

Create a plan and investment strategy for the mill corridor to preserve and create jobs, add add complementary new uses, identify public infrastructure and amenity improvements, and secure riverfront access – high priorities include:



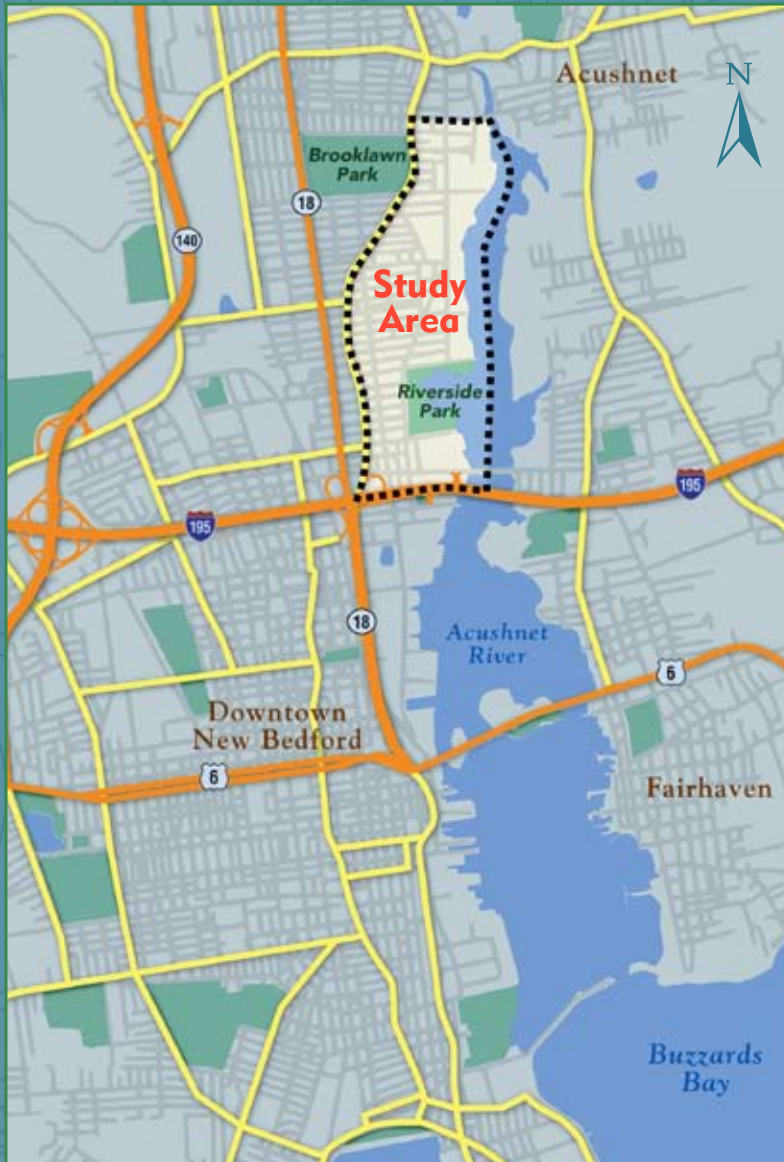
- Ensure the protection of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay building by identifying an appropriate new user when the Coalition leaves the building.
- Encourage the adaptive reuse of the Cliftex buildings, including exploration of the potential to create a visual connection to the river from the neighborhood through the building.
- Build on the existing Whaler's Cove and Whaler's Place redevelopment by exploring residential redevelopment opportunities nearby.
- Find interim uses for vacant sites, such as event parking, farmers' markets, community gardens, or other community uses, taking appropriate measures, such as site clean up and fencing for interim uses.
- Identify a relocation site for the junkyard and, in the short term, work with property owners to screen it with walls suitable for murals or plantings.
- Invest in public realm improvements.
- Consider creating a District Improvement Financing area to support public improvements.

New Bedford Upper Harbor Community Visioning Workshop

The City of New Bedford and the New Bedford Economic Development Council, assisted by planners from Goody Clancy, sponsored a Community Visioning Workshop focused on New Bedford's Upper Harbor on February 16th, 2008. The Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation made its cafeteria available for the event. This poster documents the workshop and the vision that emerged from a day of work by over 60 New Bedford residents and leaders.

Community members approved the Vision Plan in three public meetings during the summer 2008, focusing especially on access to the river and developing Acushnet Avenue as an international marketplace. (The meetings are documented in *City of New Bedford, Upper Harbor Vision Plan Community Meetings*, summer 2008.)

Funded by MassDevelopment and the Garfield Foundation with assistance from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



Strengthening the Upper Harbor: Improving connections to the Acushnet River and preserving the community's rich cultural heritage

Early Action Initiatives

- Create the Upper Harbor Heritage Trail by connecting a variety of landmarks and important institutions with Riverside and Brooklawn parks with interpretive signage and public art
- Create an Acushnet Avenue Corridor Plan to strengthen its identity, appearance, and character
- Create two public access points to the River behind the Coalition for Buzzards Bay building and at the end of Howard Avenue
- Install "River-Cams" (cameras with live video feeds to the internet) at the two priority access points to the River and at Riverside Park
- Work with property owners to screen the junk yard from the neighborhood through the use of mural and/or ivy covered walls
- Host free festivals, movie screenings, and farmers' markets—short-term projects that could help give the redevelopment momentum
- Create a map of the Trail that incorporates the history of the community, the River, and a variety of landmarks and important institutions
- Create the Upper Harbor Walking Club, possibly run by the Parks Department, to promote the Heritage Trail, increase public health, and increase public education
- Work with property owners to construct Phase I of the Acushnet Riverwalk between Coffin Avenue and Hathaway Street



Building the Vision

THE PLACE

The study area for the New Bedford Upper Harbor Community Visioning Workshop is bounded at the south by I-195, at the west by Acushnet Avenue, at the north by Wood Street, and at the east by the Acushnet River. It can be divided into three distinct zones:

- A waterfront zone comprised of both valuable underutilized land and historically significant mill buildings that limit physical and visual connections to the waterfront from the neighborhood to the west
- A culturally rich commercial corridor with community centered businesses along Acushnet Avenue
- A residential zone that lacks connections to the many wonderful existing assets within the community

ASSETS

- Brooklawn Park and Riverside Park
- The Acushnet Avenue commercial area
- Diverse neighborhoods
- Numerous schools and churches
- Museum of Madeiran Heritage
- The site of the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament and other Portuguese cultural traditions
- Historic mill buildings
- The Acushnet River itself
- Thriving manufacturing in some mill buildings
- Successful adaptive-reuse in some mill buildings
- Three Portuguese social clubs

ISSUES

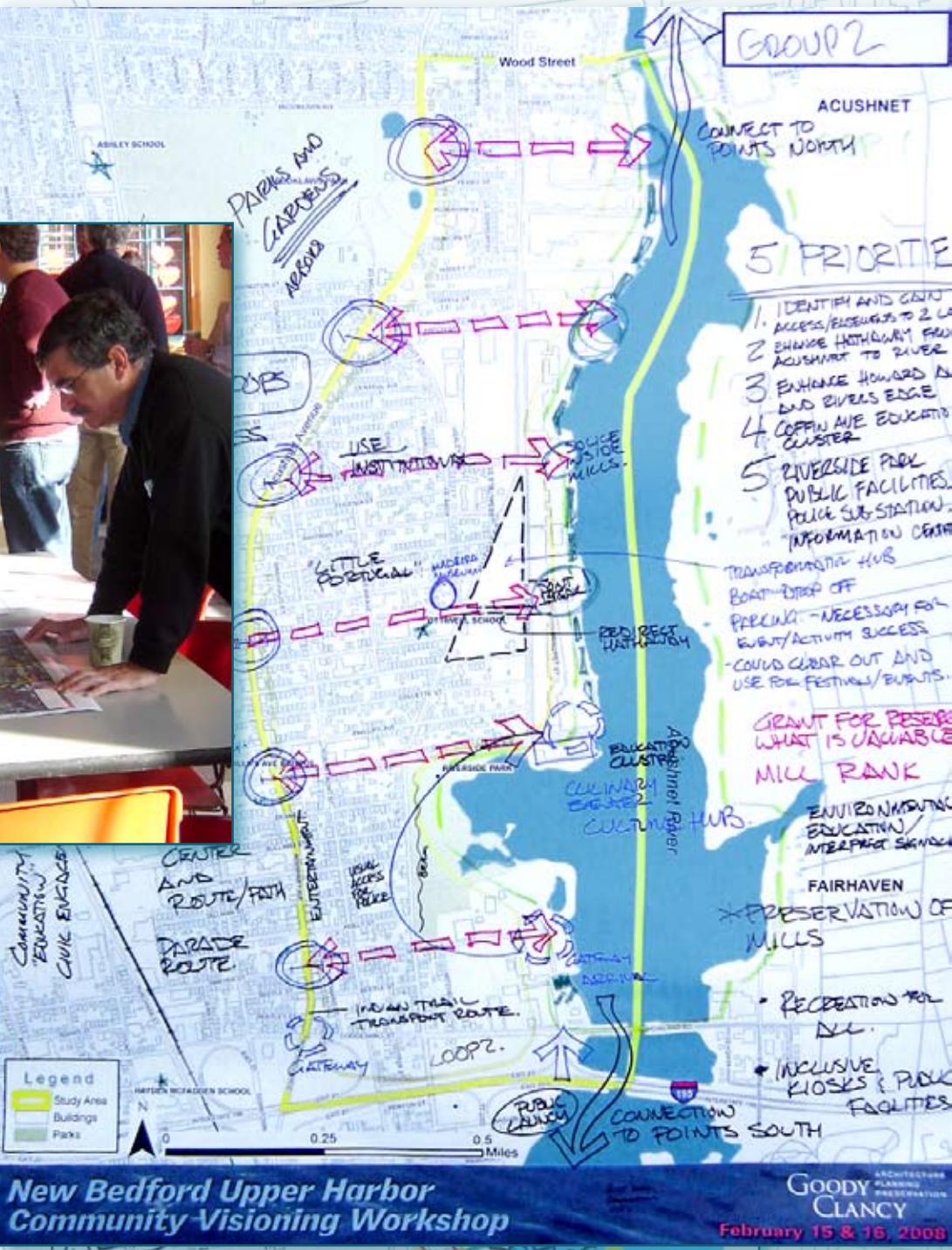
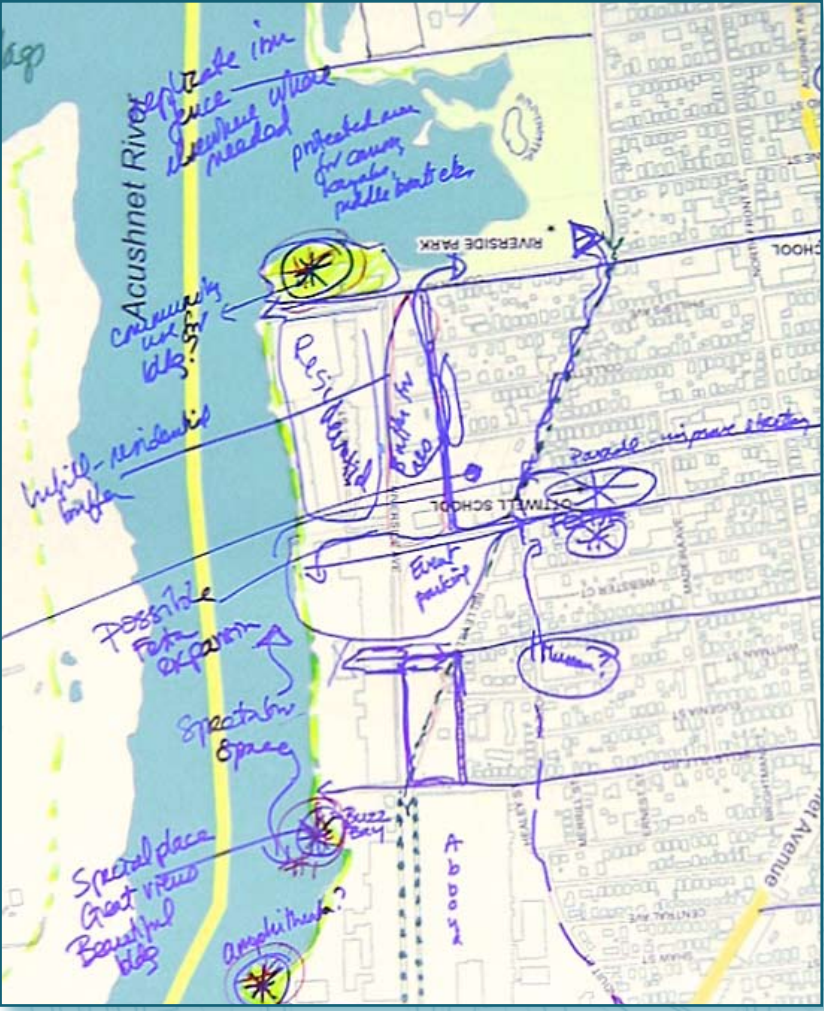
- Vacant or underutilized land along Belleville Avenue
- Vacant historic mill buildings
- Continuing periodic dredging for environmental clean-up of river
- Neighborhood-incompatible uses, such as a junkyard
- Historic storefront facades covered with newer, less attractive materials
- Parking lots in front of newer businesses detract from pedestrian experience along sidewalks
- Need to accommodate festival and business parking
- Concerns about gangs and crime in some parts of the neighborhood



THE WORKSHOP

The workshop event included analysis maps of the area, a brief presentation by the Goody Clancy planning team, and two sessions of small group activities. A week before the workshop, the planning team met with a focus group of local residents, city officials, and staff to identify a set of themes for the first round of small group discussions.

Five small groups discussed these themes in a morning session. In the afternoon participants worked in three groups to create visions for the Upper Harbor area by working with maps and markers and focusing on improving connections between the waterfront, the surrounding neighborhood, and Acushnet Avenue. These visions were presented to the larger group at the end of the day. The common priorities and elements from these visions provided the basis for the final Vision Plan. The findings are summarized below:



PRIORITIES FOR THE VISION PLAN

Group 1 - Key priorities:

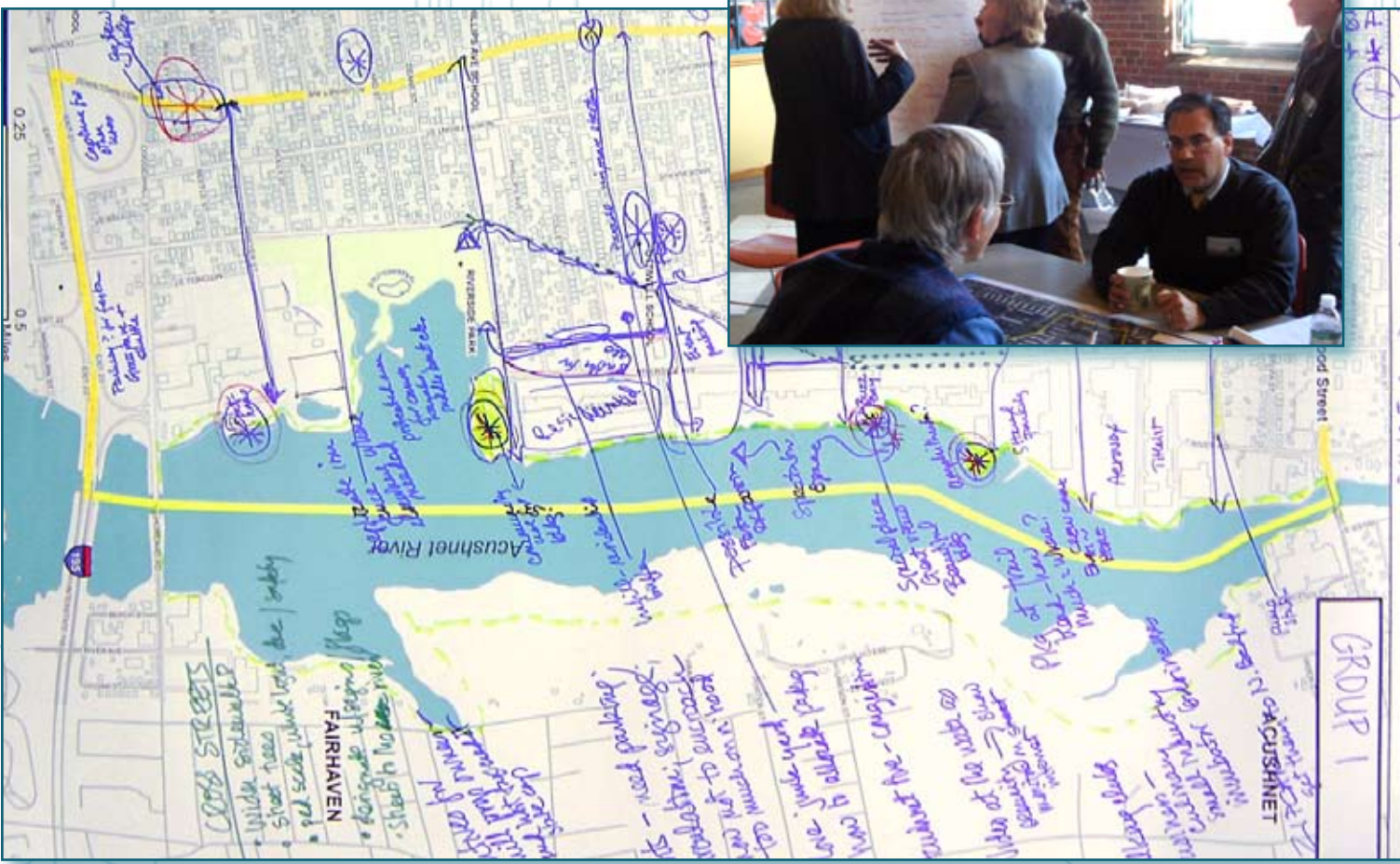
- Create a pilot site for public waterfront access and events behind the Coalition for Buzzards Bay building with appropriate signage and cameras for safety
- Increase signage along key east-west connector streets
- Obtain the easements needed to gain public access to the River at key points and to create a riverwalk
- Create a pilot access point to the River at Howard Avenue
- Provide additional bus service throughout the neighborhood, especially along Acushnet Avenue
- Improve Acushnet Avenue between Coggeshall and Phillips streets with Community Development Block Grant funds for façade improvements, streetscape enhancements, and crosswalks
- Initiate an "eyes on the water" web-cam program to increase safety
- Improve housing
- Strengthen the connection between Brooklawn and Riverside parks

Group 2 - Key priorities:

- Identify and gain easements to create a recreational "loop" around both sides of the river
- Enhance Hathaway Street from Acushnet Avenue to the River, Howard Avenue, and the River's edge
- Create an educational cluster in the Coffin Avenue area
- Create public facilities, a police sub-station, and an information center at Riverside Park

Group 3 - Key priorities:

- Create a plan for a riverwalk and secure funding
- Secure funding to build a dock at the end of Sawyer Street
- Continue the City's strong effort to stabilize the area between Sawyer and Nye streets to eventually accommodate a walking loop and streetscape improvements
- Create a safe, structured after school activity for the youth
- Create a map and walking trail that incorporate the history of the neighborhood, the River, a variety of landmarks, and restaurants
- Create a plan for the future use of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay building



THEMES FOR THE VISION

Group 1: Jobs and Small Business

This group was keenly interested in building on the area's rich cultural heritage. Ideas that emerged from this group included:

- Business collaboration and the organization of a business association
- Expanding festival areas towards the River
- Educational opportunities and government programs to keep talented people and businesses from leaving the area
- Resolving transportation access from Interstate 195 to Belleville Avenue, and for a "gateway" experience to create a better draw into the area

Group 2: Waterfront Access

Priorities for the group included:

- Improving access and views to the water
- Enhancing connections to existing neighborhood assets, especially Riverside Park and local schools
- Promoting pedestrian, bicycle and bus routes
- Connecting to Hicks-Logan and points south

Group 3: Environmental Issues

This group focused on cleaning up the existing polluted conditions in the River and creating new, attractive environmentally-themed destinations:

- Prioritize cleaning the contaminated water of the Acushnet River
- Clean the littered streets
- Improve public safety
- Create publicly accessible landscaped areas along a Riverwalk
- Create community gardens
- Enhance both views and access to the Acushnet River by punching holes through the underutilized waterfront mill buildings

Group 4: Historic Character and Reuse

Themes that emerged from this group included:

- Document and inventory historic structures
- Create programs to educate children and the public on the historic importance of the Upper Harbor
- Determine whether historic storefront facades could be restored
- Determine best opportunities for underutilized mill buildings

Group 5: Recreation and Special Events

Special events are an immediate way to inspire change and interest in the area. Ideas that emerged from the discussion include:

- Year-round activities to draw people together, such as free festivals, movie screenings, and farmers' markets
- Strengthen access and views to the waterfront and a naturalized coastline
- Improve directional signage to events and areas of interest within the Upper Harbor





ASHLEY SCHOOL

BROOKLAWN PARK

Wood Street

Acushnet Avenue

BROOKLAWN CT

HOWARD AVE

PERRY ST

INGRAHAM ST

DUNCAN ST

KEARSARGE ST

HADLEY ST

COVELL ST

HATCH ST

SHAW ST

CENTRAL AVE

CONDUIT ST

SHAW ST

BRIGHAM CT

EUGENIA ST

WHITMAN ST

NASH RD

WEBSTER CT

MAKER AVE

DAVIS ST

PHILIPS AVE

COFFIN AVE

BEDEVILLE AVE

RIVERSIDE AVE

MANOME ST

BEDEVILLE RD

DEANE ST

BULLARD ST

NYE ST

TALLMAN ST

NORTH FOUNTAIN ST

HOLLY ST

SAWYER ST

MITCHELL ST

BEETLE ST

BEETLE ST

GRANFIELD ST

COTTER ST

CEDAR GROVE ST

KENYON ST

WASHBURN ST

KILBURN ST

HICKS ST

WASHBURN ST

WASHBURN ST

WASHBURN ST

SLOCUM ST

HOPE ST

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PORTER ST

Acushnet River

195

INTERSTATE 195

Legend

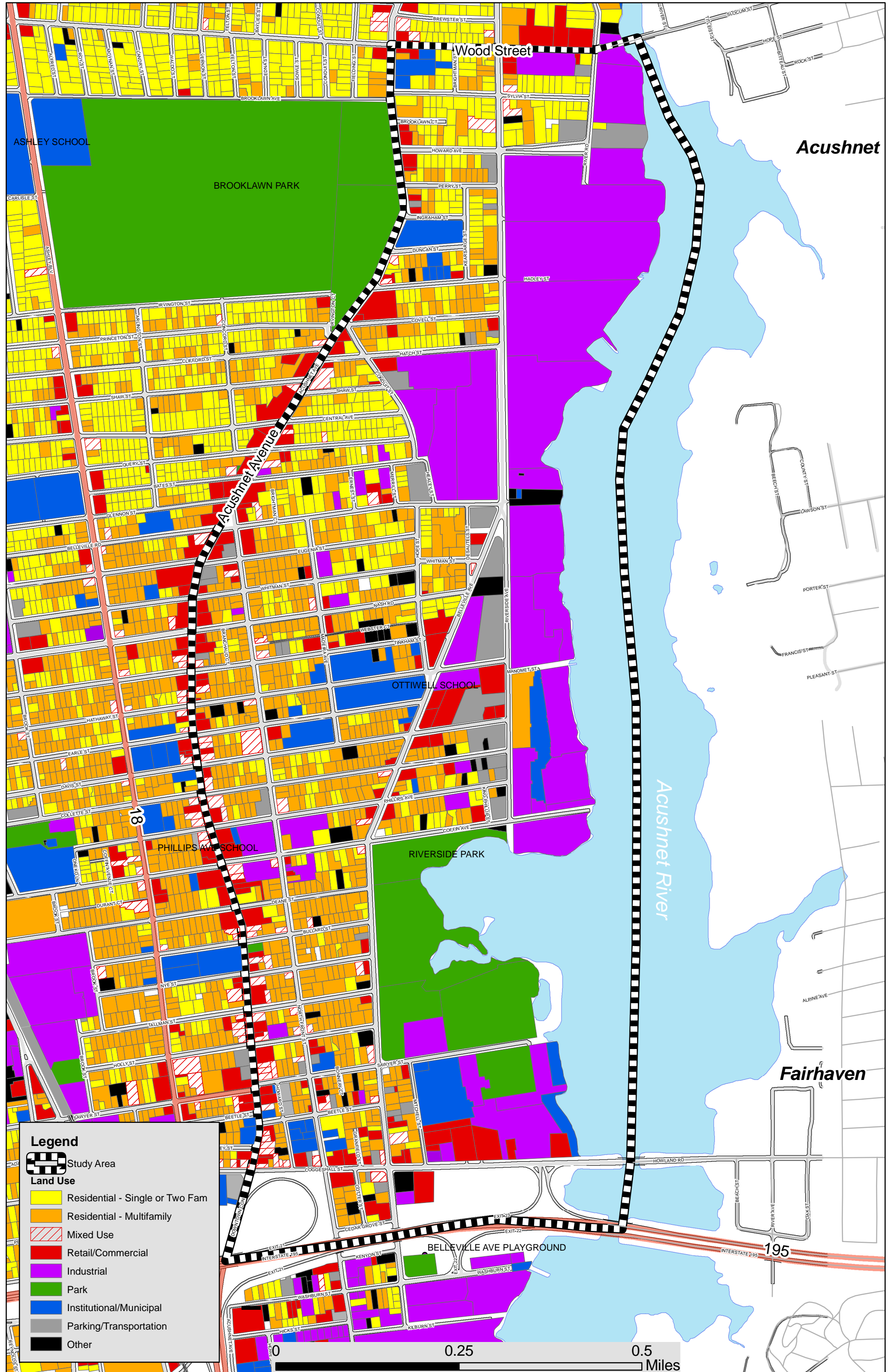
Study Area

Parcels

Major Roads

Buildings

0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Acushnet

Fairhaven

Legend



Study Area

Land Use



Residential - Single or Two Fam



Residential - Multifamily



Mixed Use



Retail/Commercial



Industrial



Park



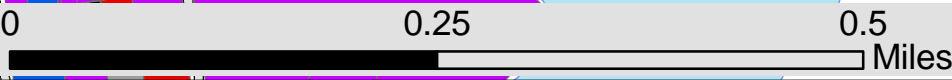
Institutional/Municipal



Parking/Transportation



Other



Objective #1: Community Boathouse

Create a Community Boathouse and additional opportunities for water-oriented activities as the river cleanup moves towards completion.

Short Term Actions

- ☒ Establish a volunteer steering committee for the Community Boathouse. The steering committee will advise the City of New Bedford on the practical matters of designing, constructing, and operating a boathouse and associated rowing programs as well as fundraising and lobbying.
Lead Role.....New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC)
Estimated Cost.....N/A
- ☒ Engage an environmental consulting firm to assess the feasibility of establishing a community rowing program with a supporting facility along the Upper Acushnet. The study will assess existing conditions, determine actions needed to create a rowing course in an expeditious manner, and gather data on potential health hazards.
Lead Role.....NBEDC or New Bedford Harbor Development Commission (HDC)
Estimated Cost.....\$30,000
- ☒ Prepare a preliminary architectural concept for the Community Boathouse, launching ramp, and dock, for both project planning and publicity and fundraising purposes.
Lead Role.....NBEDC
Estimated Cost.....N/A (pro bono design by MIT Architecture students)
- ☒ Complete preliminary design for the dredging of the rowing course, turning basin, and area in front of the Community Boathouse.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and HDC
Estimated Cost.....\$25,000
- ☒ Coordinate with the developer of the Fairhaven Mills property and other adjacent landowners to ensure that sufficient acreage is provided for a boathouse and associated parking, as well as adequate access and provision for utility connections.
Lead Role.....NBEDC
Estimated Cost.....NA

- ☒ Apply to the Seaport Council for access to Harbor Trust Funds (set aside by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during Superfund Cleanup) to fund infrastructure improvements associated with the rowing course. Also, through the steering committee, commence an aggressive fundraising process targeted at high net worth individuals residing in the South Coast area, on a permanent or seasonal basis. The campaign should also reach out to local businesses (specifically any new businesses located in the Fairhaven Mills redevelopment), private schools, colleges, and universities.

Lead Role.....NBEDC and HDC

Estimated Cost.....N/A (volunteer labor)

- ☒ Investigate potential collaboration with entities including the Mass Sports Partnership to provide funding for marketing and event planning.

Lead Role.....NBEDC

Estimated Cost.....N/A

- ☒ Commission a concept plan to investigate the feasibility of utilizing the City-owned Reliable Truss property as a public launch site for kayaks and canoes. The site should also be a northern anchor to the Riverwalk, with attractive open spaces, amenities such as picnic tables and restrooms, and adequate parking.

Lead Role.....Planning Department & Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Estimated Cost.....\$50,000

- ☒ Secure funding to plan and redevelop the Reliable Truss site. To date, the City has received \$240,000 for site cleanup that must be spent by September 2009. The City has also received \$195,000 for the restoration of a half acre of salt marsh and a \$500,000 PARC grant. Construction of the park concept plan is estimated to be \$900,000.

Lead Role.....NBEDC

Estimated Cost.....\$900,000

- ☐ Schedule an initial invitational “soft launch” rowing event for Fall, 2009. The event will feature local college, high school, and rowing clubs and is intended to be a demonstration event that can also serve as preparation prior to teams entering in the Head of the Charles. The goal of this event is to introduce the public to see what rowing in the Upper Harbor could be like. The soft launch event will make use of temporary shoreside facilities.

Lead Role.....Community Boathouse Steering Committee

Estimated Cost.....N/A (volunteer labor, donated materials)

- Plan an invitational “hard launch” event with similar temporary logistics as the soft launch. The additional time to plan the event will allow for a more structured race format to be developed. This event will allow the public to witness what future regattas may offer in the future.
Lead Role..... Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....N/A (volunteer labor, donated materials)

Medium Term Actions

- Commission schematic-level architectural plans for the Community Boathouse. Take advantage of the possibility of pro bono or discounted design services through the Steering Committee, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and/or other connections.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....\$40,000
- Assuming availability of funding and/or additional pro bono or discounted design services, continue to advance the Community Boathouse design through design development and into construction drawings.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost..... \$40,000
- Again assuming a successful fundraising process, secure needed permits and commence construction of the Community Boathouse and associated site improvements. Phase the project as necessary to conform to current and anticipated funding availability. For example, a floating ramp may not be necessary at first.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....\$800,000
- Coinciding with the opening of the Community Boathouse, work with the Steering Committee and volunteers to kick off a full program of classes and lessons for children and adults.
Lead Role.....Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost..... TBD

Long Term Actions

- Through continued fundraising, seek to re-establish the Community Boathouse a self-sufficient non-profit entity, not dependent on the City for operating funds. The Community Boathouse will continue to evolve, offering a broader range of programs to a

wider audience and potentially employing a full-time boathouse manager.

Lead Role..... Community Boathouse Steering Committee

Estimated Cost..... N/A

Objective #2: Acushnet Riverwalk

Create a continuous Acushnet Riverwalk for public access along the river from Coggeshall Street to Tarkiln Hill Road. Work with the City and property owners to establish a continuous Riverwalk:

Short Term Actions

- Commission an engineering study to identify alternative a preferred alignment for the Riverwalk, taking into account factors such as shoreline conditions and Chapter 91 (Tidelands Act), Where existing conditions would prohibit development of the riverwalk, identify alternative solutions such as boardwalks, cantilevered walkways, through-building connections, etc. Identify potential Riverwalk segments for “early action” demonstration projects.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... \$100,000

- Monitor development activity and property transactions along the Upper Acushnet. Where the City has leverage, strongly encourage property owners and/or developers to provide public access easements along the waterfront and, if feasible, additional funding for land acquisition and construction. The Commonwealth’s Chapter 91 regulations strongly encourage public access along the waterfront. The City should be sure to coordinate with regulators at Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to ensure that appropriate access is granted. The City’s priority should be on connecting the early action segments to each other.

Lead Role..... NBEDC and Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... N/A

- Seek out potential funding sources for design and construction, including PWED, CDAG, MORE Jobs, and I-Cubed funding through the Commonwealth.

Lead Role..... NBEDC and Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... N/A

Medium Term Actions

- Engage a multi-disciplinary team to design the Riverwalk in the preferred alignment, with the goal of creating a wide river promenade and associated amenities including viewing areas, open spaces, pavilions, natural shoreline plantings, etc. The design must be modular in order to accommodate interim conditions when access may not be available across all riverfront properties.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... \$250,000

- Commence construction of “demonstration” segments of the Riverwalk, with the primary goal of providing for east-west public access across riverfront parcels, allowing the community to access the river in a safe manner.

Lead Role..... Planning Department & DPI

Estimated Cost..... Approx. \$1,000,000 (2,000 feet @ \$500/linear foot)

Long Term Actions

- Construct balance of Riverwalk (approximately three miles of paved right-of-way with amenities and electrical utilities) as the City secures appropriate easements.

Lead Role..... Planning Department & DPI

Estimated Cost..... Approx. \$7,500,000 (15,000 feet @ \$500/linear foot)

- Work with the Towns of Fairhaven and Acushnet to extend a Riverwalk loop to the other side of the river via Howland Road and Slocum Street.

Lead Role..... Mayor's Office, Planning Department, Town of Fairhaven, Town of Acushnet

Estimated Cost..... TBD

Objective #3: Investment in the Mill Corridor

Create a plan and investment strategy for the mill corridor to preserve and create jobs, add complementary new uses, identify public infrastructure and amenity improvements, and secure riverfront access.

Short Term Actions

- ☒ Publicize available public and privately-owned sites within the district. Building off of the success of the Historic Mill Inventory¹ compiled by City Planning and the NBEDC, continue to serve as a clearing house for information on district properties. Bring together property owners with potential tenants and developers. Specifically target the building soon to be vacated by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for an intensive marketing effort.
Lead Role NBEDC
Estimated Cost..... N/A
- ☐ Enact an Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD) for the riverfront district. The purpose of the IPOD is to “to regulate redevelopment in the Upper Harbor District to permit the City of New Bedford adequate time to implement new permanent zoning regulations consistent with the Upper Harbor District Plan”.
Lead Role..... Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... N/A
- ☐ Engage an environmental firm to undertake site-specific environmental assessments to determine in a general manner what level of remediation is required and at what cost, similar to the work done in recent years for the Aerovox site. Other key sites for investigation include the Cliftex buildings and the Star Plating site. The full cooperation of building owners will be crucial in gaining access. Consider a proactive negotiating approach and attempt to identify “win-win” solutions where possible. Include issue of public access in all discussions with property owners.
Lead Role..... Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... \$40,000 per site
- ☐ Develop a comprehensive analysis of existing zoning along the river, with an emphasis on tailoring allowed uses to co-exist with environmental conditions and/or remediation

¹ http://www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us/planning/NB_MillInventory08.pdf

actions. Identify relevant case studies from other cities where waterfront mill structures were redeveloped. Propose a new zoning district for the riverfront area with appropriate standards for use, density, and public access, among other issues (taking into account the findings of any new environmental studies). The goal of the new zoning is to encourage “economic revitalization by retaining existing, and attracting new, sustainable businesses into the District, maintaining the historic character of the District, creating a mixed-use district as a new destination within the City, removing blighted buildings to improve the appearance of the Project Area, better utilization of the waterfront and public access to the Acushnet River, improvement of internal circulation and connections to surrounding neighborhoods, and expansion of public open spaces and community resources within the Project Area”. Consider allowing a range of appropriate “interim uses” for underutilized parcels awaiting redevelopment, including event parking, farmers’ markets, community gardens, or other community uses. Submit proposed zoning changes to the Planning Board and City Council for approval and ratification.

Lead Role..... Planning Department
Estimated Cost.....\$60,000

- Simultaneously with the zoning review, develop a program of appropriate public realm improvements for the district. Identify access deficiencies (pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular) and propose appropriate improvements, specifically addressing potential locations for new public access to the riverfront alongside or through existing structures, potentially including selective demolition to open up important view corridors. The Cliftex structures are of particular interest in this respect.

Lead Role..... Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... \$40,000

- Reach out to the owners of the junkyard to commence a dialogue about potential relocation. In the short term, work with property owners to screen it with walls suitable for murals or plantings.

Lead Role..... NBEDC
Estimated Cost.....N/A

Mid Term Actions

- Consider implementing a District Improvement Finance (DIF) mechanism to ensure that the district is appropriately maintained going forward. A DIF operates by collecting a fee from the businesses benefitting from its services. Eventually, a DIF could take over event programming for the waterfront from the City’s Recreation Department.
Lead Role.....NBEDC &City Planning
Estimated Cost..... \$20,000 (DIF-related consulting and legal fees)

Objective #4: Acushnet Avenue

Strengthen Acushnet Avenue as a vital commercial corridor.

Short Term Actions

- ☐ Consider establishing an Acushnet Avenue BID or Main Street form of organization (either as a stand-alone organization or the offshoot of an existing organization) to serve as an advocate for neighborhood businesses and to encourage collaboration between businesses for joint marketing and improvements. Seek grant funding to offset start-up costs with the medium-term goal of making the entity a dues collecting, self-sustaining non-profit. A key goal of the association should be to support businesses that will help expand employment options for local residents.

Lead Role.....Office of Housing & Community Development (OHCD)

Estimated Cost.....N/A

- ☐ Commission a planning-level corridor study for Acushnet Avenue, focusing on streetscape improvements (paving, curb treatments, street lighting, seating, open space areas, etc.), façade improvements, and potential strategies to provide additional parking. The study should identify one or more optimal locations for new public parking areas. Streetscape and façade design guidelines should emphasize the “international market” concept, should it be embraced by the business community.

Lead Role.....NBEDC and Planning Department

Estimated Cost.....\$40,000

- ☐ Work with the City of New Bedford’s Community Development Department to implement the City’s existing façade improvement program for commercial and mixed-use buildings in the neighborhood, with a focus on the historic buildings between Eugenia Street and Davis Street.

Lead Role.....OHCD

Estimated Cost.....N/A

- ☐ Coordinate with the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) to provide enhanced bus service to and along the Acushnet Avenue corridor with potential connections direct to the downtown, better serving residents, customers, and employees.

Lead Role.....Planning Department

Estimated Cost.....N/A

- ☐ Prepare zoning language requiring the provision of a majority of on-site parking behind and along side new buildings, instead of in large lots along the frontage, thereby preserving a high-quality pedestrian environment. Encourage connections between rear lots to provide for secondary circulation.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... N/A

Medium Term Actions

- ☐ Secure funding for the construction of streetscape improvements and new parking area(s) described in the Acushnet Avenue Corridor Study through existing programs such as Public Works ED, Community Development Action Grants, or the Economic Development Agency.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... N/A

- ☐ Commission construction documents for streetscape improvements and new parking area(s). Secure necessary permits and approvals.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... \$340,000

- ☐ Bid construction of the streetscape improvements and new parking area(s). If not already owned by the City of New Bedford, secure control of land proposed for new parking lots in the Acushnet Avenue Corridor Study.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... \$3,400,000 (exclusive of land costs)

Long Term Actions

- ☐ Transition the BID or Main Street organization to a full-time, professionally-managed, self-sustaining non-profit entity (potentially a Business Improvement District). Broaden scope of activities in response to neighborhood needs.

Lead Role..... NBEDC

Estimated Cost..... TBD

- ☐ Depending on needs, identify locations for additional parking areas.

Lead Role..... TBD

Estimated Cost..... TBD

Objective #5: Designate Riverview Streets

Improve the streetscape on “riverview streets” that connect the neighborhood to the River. Designation of a few streets as primary connectors to the river will make river access visible to Acushnet Avenue visitors and to neighborhood residents.

Short Term Actions

- ☐ Work with the City of New Bedford’s Highway Division to identify cost-efficient and immediate ways to delineate the three key riverview roads: Sawyer Street, Hathaway Street, and Howard Avenue. Consider replacing/supplementing yellow road striping with reflective light blue striping. If funding is available, add banners and/or signage at strategic intersections.

Lead Role.....NBEDC and DPI
Estimated Cost.....\$20,000

Medium Term Actions

- ☐ Work with the DPI and an urban design or landscape architecture firm to develop and implement a set of streetscape standards for the riverview roads. Consider expanding streetscape treatment to additional public ways.

Lead Role..... NBEDC and DPI
Estimated Cost..... \$40,000

Objective #6: Programs and Events

Draw people to the river with programs and events. The Feast already brings thousands of people to the neighborhood annually. Draw them to the river at other times with fun and exciting activities.

Short Term Actions

- ☐ Organize an association of property owners from the riverfront area to encourage collaboration between businesses for joint marketing and improvements. Seek grant funding to offset start-up costs with the long-term goal of making the entity a dues collecting, self-sustaining non-profit. A key goal of the association should be to draw people to the river and to encourage businesses that will help expand employment options for local residents.

Lead Role..... Office of Tourism and Marketing

Estimated Cost..... N/A

- ☐ Explore the possibility of hosting free outdoor movie screenings, concerts, festivals, a farmers' market, and other events in Riverside Park and other riverfront areas. Identify local businesses to sponsor events.

Lead Role..... Office of Tourism and Marketing

Estimated Cost..... \$10,000 per event (sponsored by local businesses)

- ☐ Work with the organizers of the Feast to encourage extension of Feast activities to the mills and the riverfront. Held just blocks from the river, the Feast could be the most effective way to introduce the Riverwalk and other amenities to thousands of New Bedford and regional residents.

Lead Role..... Office of Tourism and Marketing & Mayor's Office

Estimated Cost..... N/A

Medium Term Actions

- ☐ Work with local property owners to install "RiverCams"—video cameras with live video feeds to the internet—at activity points on the river to raise awareness about the river.

Lead Role..... Planning Department & New Bedford Police Department

Estimated Cost..... N/A (provided by property owner)

- Pending availability of funds, develop programs for children and youth focused on local history and the Upper Harbor environment.
Lead Role..... Parks & Recreation Department with Planning Department
Estimated Cost.....TBD

Long Term Actions

- Should redevelopment activities create a substantial critical mass of businesses along the river, consider converting the property owners' association into a Business Improvement District (BID) with professional staff.
Lead Role.....NBEDC & Planning Department
Estimated Cost.....TBD

Objective #7: Community Stabilization

Continue community-building investment in the Riverside Park neighborhood

The City has designated this area as part of a North End Community Development

Short Term Actions

- ☐ As part of the City of New Bedford's forthcoming master planning process, conduct a community-focused charette/listening session with the Riverside Park neighborhood to identify key areas of concern. Develop a simple concept plan showing proposed improvements.
Lead Role..... OHCD
Estimated Cost..... N/A
- ☐ Leverage existing Community Development programs including storefront upgrade, housing rehabilitation and infrastructure in a focused manner to create immediate improvement.
Lead Role..... OHCD
Estimated Cost..... N/A
- ☐ Work with other City departments including the Police Department and Recreation to address concerns regarding public safety and lack of youth activities.
Lead Role..... OHCD, New Bedford Police Department, Parks & Recreation
Estimated Cost..... N/A

Medium Term Actions

- ☐ Continue to check in with the neighborhood on at least a semi-annual basis. Strive to make the neighborhood a part of improvements in the surrounding areas (Acushnet Avenue and the Riverfront) through focused employment programs.
Lead Role..... OHCD
Estimated Cost..... N/A

Objective #8: Upper Harbor Heritage Trail

Tell the story of the Upper Harbor Neighborhood with a heritage walking trail.

Short Term Actions

- ☐ Identify key buildings and sites of historic and cultural interest to be linked by the trail, such as the mills, churches, the Feast, the Museum of Madeiran History, and the first settlement site of New Bedford on the river near Wood Street. Seek grant funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) to fund the inventorying process and/or volunteer labor from New Bedford based historic groups.

Lead Role.....Planning Department (Historic Preservation Planner)

Estimated Cost.....\$5,000

- ☐ Create a map of the trail with descriptions of significant sites and identify the sites with interpretive signs. Work with the National Park Service in New Bedford to explore options for the creation of the map.

Lead Role.....Planning Department (Historic Preservation Planner)

Estimated Cost.....\$10,000 (primarily for interpretive signage)

Medium Term Actions

- ☐ Create a neighborhood-based Upper Harbor Walking Club to promote the Heritage Trail and increase public health, seeking funds from public health foundations and similar sources to help support creation of the trail and the walking club.

Lead Role.....TBD

Estimated Cost.....TBD

Appendix A:
Draft Interim Planning
Overlay District



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight

AN ORDINANCE

RELATIVE TO

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford that the Revised Ordinances of the City of New Bedford are hereby further amended by adding the following Section 4610 Upper Harbor District Interim Planning Overlay District to the Zoning laws of the City of New Bedford.

4610 Upper Harbor District Interim Planning Overlay District (UH IPOD)

4620 Statement of Purpose

An Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD) is established to regulate redevelopment in the Upper Harbor District to permit the City of New Bedford adequate time to implement new permanent zoning regulations consistent with the Upper Harbor District Plan, which was adopted by the Planning Board on XX.

These changes will assist the City in generating economic revitalization by retaining existing, and attracting new, sustainable businesses into the District, maintaining the historic character of the District, creating a mixed-use district as a new destination within the City, removing blighted buildings to improve the appearance of the Project Area, better utilization of the waterfront and public access to the Acushnet River, improvement of internal circulation and connections to surrounding neighborhoods, and expansion of public open spaces and community resources within the Project Area.

4630 UH IPOD Boundaries

The boundary of the UH IPOD is shown on the City of New Bedford Zoning Map, which map is hereby incorporated and made part of this ordinance.

4640 Relationship to Existing Zoning

4641 Generally. The UH IPOD zoning regulations supersede all underlying zoning regulations. Development proposed in the area designated as the UH IPOD shall be regulated by the procedures and criteria established by the UH IPOD as described

herein; and by the goals and objectives of the UH Redevelopment District Plan as adopted by the Planning Board.

4642 Exceptions.

Development shall be permitted to occur consistent with the regulations of the underlying zoning districts if said development does not exceed 500 square feet and the purpose of the expansion is to improve the economic viability of existing uses, or to meet current health, safety and building codes. Further, if sites within the Upper Harbor District are currently subject to an existing overlay district, and said district was adopted prior to the adoption of this section, the zoning regulations of said overlay district shall apply and the UH IPOD regulations shall not apply. Further, projects for which building permit applications have been filed prior to enactment or effective date of the UH IPOD must be consistent with Ch.40A Sec.6.

4650 UH IPOD Review Procedure and Criteria

4651 Staff Review.

All development proposals subject to UH IPOD regulations shall be submitted to the City of New Bedford Planning Department for review and comment. The Planning Department may solicit comments from any City agency as part of its administrative review. The Planning Department may prepare written comments and recommendations ***within 30 days***, and submit said comments and recommendations to the Planning Board. If no comments are submitted ***within 30 days*** of the initial submission to the City Planning Department, the Planning Board shall proceed without said comments. Upon receipt of the Planning Department's comments the Planning Board shall commence the Special Permit application review process. If no comments are received from the Planning Department, the Planning Board shall commence the special permit application process ***30 days from*** the applicant's submission of materials to the New Bedford Planning Department.

4660 Special Permit and Site Plan Guidelines

All development proposals within the UH IPOD that are not exempt consistent with sub section 4642 above, shall require a special permit from the New Bedford Planning Board consistent with the procedures of this ordinance and the guidelines noted below. Further, a special permit for development in the UH IPOD shall be subject to the site design criteria of Section 5400 Site Plan Review, but shall not require a separate site plan review filing. The UH IPOD shall be construed as a combined special permit and site plan procedure subject to the following additional guidelines. In order for any special permit to be approved, the New Bedford Planning Board shall make a written finding that the proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the UH District Master Plan as adopted by the New Bedford Planning Board.

4461 Design and Development Guidelines.

The Planning Board shall make written findings that the proposed development is consistent with the following design policies, principles and goals, which are intended to provide policy guidance to property owners and the general public about the form and character desirable for development in the UH District. Because the District Plan for the UH District provides for diverse types and mixtures of land uses, the appropriate management of transitions among private uses and between private and public spaces is critical.

The application of these principles can vary within the context of specific building proposals in ways that still fully respect the policies' intent. It is intended that project proponents, city staff, the Planning Board and the general public will be open to creative variations from the guidance presented here as long as the core values expressed are being served. A project need not meet all the goals of this section to receive a special permit, but the permit granting authority shall find that, on balance, the city's objectives are being served while more detailed planning for the district is being completed.

Project proponents shall indicate in narrative and graphic formats how their projects conform to the following design policies, principles and goals set forth in the UH Master Plan.

(A) Relationship to Public Spaces

“Public spaces” shall include streets, sidewalks, squares, parks, pedestrian and bicycle paths and facilities. Development should enhance public spaces, ***and where possible, make physical improvements on site, or on abutting public ways to enhance consistency of design, access and safety of public spaces consistent with the UH District Plan.***

- Buildings and landscape elements should define and frame public spaces. Property lines should be defined by buildings, street walls, or fences. New development and adaptive reuse shall create a street edge at the sidewalk either by the building itself or by a fence or continuous landscaped edge.
- Buildings should be oriented toward public spaces with entrances and windows on the street. Blank walls parallel to the street are discouraged.
- New developments should follow and retain the existing block system, where feasible. New blocks should be sized proportionately to existing blocks.
- Building entrances should be located to facilitate pedestrian movement between private and public spaces and to promote strong physical connections to public spaces.

- New development and adaptive reuse should promote active ground floor uses with the potential to animate the street.
- Awnings, façade treatments and window displays for ground floor uses, which are compatible with surrounding uses, are encouraged.
- All street right-of-ways and pedestrian precincts should have new or repaired sidewalks, street trees, and pedestrian-scale streetlights.
- Curb cuts should be limited in size and number. Shared driveways between adjoining uses are encouraged.
- Off-street parking, service entrances, trash management, and mechanical equipment should be located away from streets and other public spaces. Surface parking in front of or underneath raised buildings is discouraged. Shared parking between adjoining uses is encouraged.
- Spaces that provide opportunities for public events programming, including public art and open market areas should be fostered and/or incorporated into development concepts.
- Connections to the proposed Commuter Rail Station should be provided for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.
- New roads should follow the UH District Plan framework and connect with existing roads within the district, creating a regular grid network where feasible. Roads that end in cul-de-sacs are discouraged.

(B) Historic Context

The UH District contains mill buildings dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when the district was a center of textile and metals manufacturing. Some of these buildings may be “brownfields” containing toxic contaminants. The City wishes both to encourage adaptive reuse of existing mill buildings and to encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites.

- Where relevant and feasible, the adaptive reuse of some or all of existing historic buildings should be considered, especially in the case of buildings deemed preferably preserved by the New Bedford Historical Commission. The UH District Plan recommends the preservation of the following mills:
 - Coggeshall Street (85, 94, 115)
 - Coffin Ave. (1, R1, 12, 19)
 - Manomet Mill
 - Riverside Ave. (56-90; 114, 194, ES)
 - 123 Sawyer Street (Ropeworks)
 - Belleville Street (615, 620, 630, 700)
 - 50 Conduit Street
 - 27 Healy Street
 - 90 Hatch Street
- Infill development near historic structures and new construction attached to historic structures should be compatible with the

historic context. However, new construction should not attempt to be a copy of existing structures.

(C) Relationship to the Waterfront

The City wishes to enhance public access to the Acushnet River waterfront outside of the Designated Port District.

- Provide for a publicly accessible waterfront, regardless of whether the land is publicly or privately owned.
- Preserve views down streets to the water and waterfront activities.
- Provide active and passive recreation uses along the waterfront as part of the site-plan.
- Activate the waterfront using active ground level uses such as restaurants and retail destinations.

(D) Environmental Goals

Buildings should be designed to use natural resources and energy resources efficiently in construction, maintenance, and long-term operation of the building.

- Compliance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards and other evolving environmental efficiency standards is encouraged.

(D) Economic Development Goals

The City encourages developments that will promote economic development by retaining existing jobs and creating new jobs in the UH District.

- Projects should have a mix of compatible land uses, such as residential, commercial and light industrial uses.
- New developments should support land uses that will utilize and encourage the usage of the proposed Commuter Rail Station south of the UH District.

(E) Master Plan Approach

All applications for development should be presented using a Master Plan approach. Projects should address both the various development phases of the proposed project and the phasing of other known building and infrastructure improvements within the UH District in order to coordinate and maximize the benefits of redevelopment and infrastructure improvements, as much as possible.

4670 Dimensional Regulations.

Building height, building to lot coverage, total lot coverage by impervious surfaces, building to lot setbacks, and all other dimensional regulations such as the sign regulations of this ordinance shall not apply to special permit applications in the area designated as the UH IPOD. Said dimensional regulations shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to insure consistency with the Upper Harbor District Plan.

4671 Parking Regulations. The Planning Board, in considering any development proposal within the UH IPOD shall consider the off-street parking requirements of

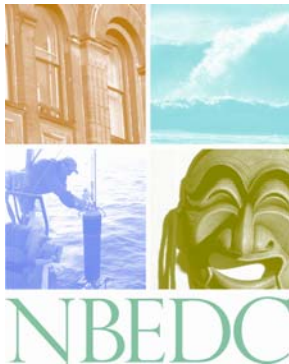
this ordinance as maximum allowable off-street parking requirements. Further, the Planning Board may request and require that the proposed development provide off street parking at a rate less than is required by this ordinance or in a shared parking arrangement in order to further the objectives of the UH District Plan.

Appendix B:
Reliable Truss Site Concept

Appendix C:
Upper Harbor Vision Plan
Community Meetings
Summary

NEW BEDFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**UPPER HARBOR VISION PLAN
COMMUNITY MEETINGS**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Upper Harbor Vision Plan is an effort undertaken by the City of New Bedford, the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC), MassDevelopment, and Goody Clancy, to create a blueprint for the revitalization of this historic industrial area. The New Bedford Upper Harbor and Acushnet River estuary neighborhoods, which was the focus of these events, is bounded at the south by I-195, at the west by Acushnet Avenue, at the north by Wood Street, and at the east by the waterfront.

This Upper Harbor planning effort is being executed as a two-phase process. Phase one focuses on the development of a community vision, gathered through a public planning process and the second phase will develop a comprehensive district plan that reflects the visioning process towards the goal of implementation. The complete vision plan will be completed and presented in the early fall.

Visioning Workshop

A public presentation and a charrette were held on the weekend of February 15, 2008 at the Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation mill located within the district. This event was advertised in the Standard Times newspaper, on the local radio station, WBSM, and Mayor Scott W. Lang issued a press release, which was also posted on the city's website. The NBEDC and the City's Planning Office also sent out mass emails to their contacts from various organizations, including the NBEDC's Council members, the Coalition of Buzzards Bay, and Neighborhoods United, which represent the city's neighborhood associations.

On Friday evening, the students from MIT's Design/Build Studio/Workshop presented their design for the community boathouse and rowing facility that will be located along the Acushnet River, with a possible site at the end of Sawyer Street. The evening was great success, with over one hundred people in attendance. On the following day, approximately sixty people arrived at the mill to participate in a daylong charrette. This process, overseen by the consultant firm of Goody Clancy, consisted of breaking everyone into several groups in the morning to review maps and visuals of the study area and discuss ideas, concerns and visions for what the plan should focus upon. After lunch, the groups reconvened and determined their top goals and objectives for the District. At the end of the day, the groups all merged to create one audience to which each group presented their ideas.

Goody Clancy documented the notes, plans, and supporting materials from the morning and afternoon sessions of the February 16 Upper Harbor Community Visioning Workshop. Summaries of each group's discussion, including the goals and issues that received the greatest emphasis, followed by verbatim transcripts of the map and poster notes taken by each group's facilitators (refer to *New Bedford Upper Harbor Community Visioning Workshop Shaping the Future of the Upper Harbor February 15th & 16th,, 2007 Summary Report & Workshop Record*).

Community Input on the Vision

The City and NBEDC then presented the draft vision plan to the community to ensure that Goody Clancy's vision plan was what the public envisioned for the Upper Harbor District. The planning team recognized that a greater level of involvement was needed to reach a broader base in the district and to attempt to break through language barriers. The City, NBEDC, and MassDevelopment decided that the best way to accomplish this goal was to schedule several meetings in a variety of familiar locations in the district, at different times with translators available, to attract as many participants as possible. The community meetings were held on:

- Wednesday, July 30th at Brooklawn Senior Center at 6pm
- Saturday, August 2nd at 9:30am outside at Riverside Park gazebo
- Thursday, August 7th at Saint Anthony's Church hall

Community meetings were publicized through an array of outreach methods, including:

- Weekly Saturday morning local Portuguese radio station talk show
- Weekly Compass newspaper in both English and Portuguese
- El Latino Expreso newspaper in Spanish
- O Jornal newspaper in Portuguese
- Meetings dates were printed for several weeks in the Saint Anthony's Church bulletin
- The Assistant City Planner and the Preservation Planner spoke on the Upper Harbor during the Mayor's monthly Friday morning talk show, live at City Hall
- Fliers were printed in English, Spanish and Portuguese and were placed on the city's website
- 2,000 of these multilingual fliers were dropped in the upper harbor neighborhood by Youth Court, a group that oversees youth performing community service hours
- Mass emails were distributed to the City Council and City department heads
- Multilingual fliers were emailed to Neighborhoods United, the umbrella group for the city's neighborhood associations, and the Bullard Street Neighborhood Group

The meetings presented lively discussion and common themes emerged. The common themes expressed by the participants during these sessions include:

- Develop the Acushnet Avenue Corridor as an international market with a greatly enhanced physical presence and character that emphasizes local and independent shop owners and encourages an increase in pedestrian activity.
- Targeted and increased marketing of existing strengths (i.e. restaurants, parks, etc.) to both New Bedford residents and visitors.
- Accelerated development of the river-walk and other access points to the waters edge such as the boathouse and former Reliable Truss site.
- Market and promote development and public access along the river and a revitalized Acushnet Avenue as new sources of pride for the city, turning long perceived negatives into new strengths for the city.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The community meetings began with participants being greeted by the NBEDC and Planning staff that encouraged them to review the visuals, and ask any questions they may have regarding the draft vision plan, the process, etc.

Each community meeting included a brief presentation from the NBEDC to provide the participants with an understanding of how the Upper Harbor draft plan was developed. Public input and discussion was facilitated at each meeting by the vice chair of the New Bedford Planning Board. The planning staff through flipcharts documented the participants' input on the vision plan. The following input was gathered at each of the three community meetings from approximately forty participants.

Community Meeting 1 – Brooklawn Senior Center

- Public access to waterfront
- Riverwalk should be Phase I of the implementation of the plan
 - Early access will give public better perspective of redevelopment progress of the mills
 - Create a better perception of the district
 - Spur progress in the neighborhoods and the district
- Riverwalk would provide an essential link from northern neighborhoods in the District to Riverside Park
- Perception of Riverside Park is mixed; safe during the day, unsafe at night
- Restoration of Reliable Truss site
 - Provide for canoe/kayak launch in Phase I of the project
 - “Get people on the water”
- Traffic management/calming
 - The Avenue, Ashley Blvd. and North Front St. become one-ways
- Historical survey/assessment of the District and its resources (a partial survey has been completed by the City)
- Need for a heritage trail linking all the resources
 - Churches are a draw for heritage tourism
 - Ethnic, urban gardens
- Recognize and appreciate the cultural, “European” atmosphere of Acushnet Avenue
 - Prefer smaller, unique niche boutiques, cafes, shops, restaurants
 - Prefer the walkability of the Avenue, but needs enhancement
 - Appreciate the access to diverse services that the Avenue provides, i.e. post office, dry cleaning, “village-living”
 - Enjoy the urban and international feel of the Avenue
 - Close the Avenue one day a week to create a open, street market with a trolley running a loop for transportation
 - Make the Avenue a destination with its own unique identity, i.e. Federal Hill, Providence, RI
 - Design uniformity in the streetscaping, with signage, streetlights, storefront awnings, street furniture, banners, planters, unique pavement applications
 - Implement empty storefront program, i.e. art in the windows through partnerships with the schools, cultural organizations

Community Meeting 2 – Riverside Park

- Redevelopment of the mills should include community needs, such as co-operative stores, mini-mall, i.e. downtown Providence, Quincy Market
- Empty, triangular lot across from Cliftex mill, should be considered for resident parking/community events, i.e. the Feast
 - Enhanced planned parking and streetscaping that require quick and easy design improvements “phase I implementation”
- Plan for future uses not revolving around traditional vehicular uses
 - In the mean time, parking may be provided in ways that do prohibit future alternative development of the sites, i.e. no structured parking
- Shuttles to events and programs on the river and throughout the city
- Improve public transit in the area
- Improve pedestrian experience through enhanced sidewalks with seating and bus shelters
- Relocate underutilized benches at Riverside Park to the playground/soccer field areas
- Community swimming pool with a pavilion
- Construct a performance half shell for movies, music, cultural events
- Create heritage trail throughout the District
 - Collaborate with appropriate community organizations, i.e. Preservation Society, WHALE, NPS
- Community gardens sited in appropriate areas and could reflect the ethnic culture of the neighborhoods
- Create pocket parks and green spaces
- Public access to the waterfront
- Riverwalk should be a dual pedestrian/bike path with delineation to accommodate the dual use
- Riverwalk promenade outlook (east/west connections) i.e. San Antonio model
- Improve streetscaping with better east/west links
 - Special streetscaping that leads to the waterfront
 - Wayfinding signage for identification, i.e. Freedom Trail
- Designate Acushnet Avenue a “slow street” with signage and speed tables, bike lanes i.e. Berkeley, CA
- Market the Avenue better with a retail directory/maps, rack cards
- Make the Avenue tourist/pedestrian friendly
 - Wider sidewalks
 - One-way traffic flow on both the Avenue and Ashley Blvd. to create a loop
- Provide opportunities for façade improvements
- Create an identity for the Avenue
 - Market its cultural resources
 - Improve gateway entrance at Coggeshall Street
 - Build upon the authentic, ethnic feel i.e. “international boulevard”
- No big chain stores/restaurants
 - Build upon the uniqueness of the existing establishments
 - Balance with family-friendly restaurants
- Provide for entertainment to 18-20 year olds i.e. Providence
- Address litter and code enforcement issues
- Selected demolition of blighted properties

Community Meeting 3 – Saint Anthony’s Church hall

- Visitors Center at the gateway entrance from I-195
 - Serve as a place of orientation
 - Provide informational brochures, rack cards
 - Live person to answer questions
- Community center/visitors center at waterfront, possibly the boathouse at Sawyer Street
- Dog park
- Textile museum
- Light Saint Anthony’s Church spire and other notable landmarks at night
 - Act as a draw
- Façade improvements along the Avenue
 - Façade easements under City control
- Limit chain stores while providing incentives for niche shops and cafes
 - Use existing chain stores as anchors for future mom and pop businesses
- Conduct a market analysis of the Avenue similar to the downtown
- Encourage development that replaces blight while maintaining the character of the Avenue
 - Design review - maintain minimum setbacks, signage, etc.
- Improve building code enforcement
 - Address litter issue
 - Address vacant properties
- Address the issue of “cruising” traffic
- Address parking issues along the Avenue
 - Provide parking behind the Avenue
 - Spot parking throughout the District using city’s vacant lots
 - Create useful, enhanced parking signage
- Enhance public transportation throughout the District and linking to downtown
- Utilize traffic calming measures on the Avenue
- Create BID for the Acushnet Avenue businesses
- Market the Avenue, invest in the businesses and improve their physical conditions
- Reintroduce the former “International District” on the Avenue
 - Use a PWED for street improvements
 - Must sustain a collaboration between the City and businesses
- Inventory the existing resources/businesses on the Avenue to develop a retail directory
- “Change the mood” of the Avenue by creating identity through streetscaping and design review
- Immediate improvements/access to waterfront will change perception
 - “Create a sense of pride”
- Current and future riverfront will act as a natural stimulus for the revitalization for the District
- Public access to the waterfront, i.e. riverwalk
 - Security along riverwalk
 - Link riverwalk to Acushnet and Fairhaven side of harbor
- More restaurants along the waterfront
- More mixed-use businesses along the river
- More open space in the District

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Strong support was expressed from the participants at all three community meetings that the City needs to better harness the assets of the study area to ensure that they are utilized to their fullest potential. The Acushnet Avenue Corridor and the development of the river walk received enthusiastic support for complete planning and development. Many participants articulated that marketing existing assets and short-term successes are needed to build momentum in what could be a 10-year development plan.

A summary of consistently expressed comments during each of the sessions has been grouped together and are as follows:

Acushnet Avenue Corridor

- Develop the Acushnet Avenue Corridor as an international market with a greatly enhanced physical identity and character that emphasizes local and independent shop owners and encourages an increase in pedestrian activity
- Establish design review for Acushnet Avenue
- “Change the mood” – Create pedestrian-friendly Avenue
 - Address the “cruising” issue
 - Create an identity to the Avenue using streetlights, street furniture, bus shelters, etc.
- Establish a gateway experience at the Coggeshall Street entrance and gateway intersections at key locations

Riverwalk/Waterfront Access

- “Get on the river!” - Immediate water access was stressed at every meeting
 - Start at a central access point while walk is developed
 - Kayak/canoe launch at the former Reliable Truss site
- Establish east/west connections with promenades jutting into the river
- Utilize Riverside Park as an existing community asset
- Acquire easements along the waterfront so that as funding becomes available sections of the riverwalk may be constructed
- Create riverwalk connecting former Reliable Truss site to Riverside Park, thereby connecting the neighborhoods

Marketing

- Targeted and increased marketing of exiting strengths (i.e. restaurants, parks, etc.) to both New Bedford residents and visitors
- Develop a consistent source of funding and management for promotional activity
- Market on a equal level with the downtown
- Market and promote development and public access along the river and a revitalized Acushnet Avenue as new sources of pride for the city, turning long perceived negatives into new strengths for the city

Neighborhoods

- Increase homeownership to address quality of life issues/concerns
- Provide funds for exterior home improvements

The main goal of the community meetings was to encourage greater participation from residents and stakeholders who live and work in the project area, through extensive outreach. The participants in attendance were energetic and represented a wide range of stakeholders, though the residents of the neighborhood made up a small number of total participants. The reason for the less than expected resident turn out may be attributed to this type of event being foreign to their experience and the fact that this area of the city has a low homeownership rate, and therefore residents in the area are not as invested as in other sections of the city.

As the visioning process concludes, public outreach must be continued and intensified to overcome skepticism and apathy regarding the future development of these neighborhoods. The City and the NBEDC are hopeful that as progress is made through the creation of the riverwalk and improvements to the Acushnet Avenue corridor, that these accomplishments will increase residents' awareness and participation in future planning and development projects.


APPENDICES

Appendix A – Standard Times Article

Public access key component of New Bedford's upper harbor plan

By **Joe Cohen**
Standard-Times staff writer
July 31, 2008 6:00 AM

Text Size: **A** | **A** | **A**

 Print this Article  Email this Article

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NEW BEDFORD — A draft plan for upper New Bedford Harbor revitalization proposes three new, east-west, public-access ways to the Acushnet River and a north-south walkway starting above Coggeshall Street and continuing for miles along the river to above Wood Street.

Under the plan, the public would gain access to the riverfront and walkway at both ends of the promenade or from Sawyer and Hathaway streets and Howard Avenue.

At present, there is extremely limited public access to the riverfront along the upper harbor, and no way to walk along it for any distance. A boathouse for small rowing and sailing craft is proposed for the Coggeshall Street end of the walkway, and a new park for the northern end.

Details of the plan were discussed Wednesday evening at a community meeting conducted by the city Planning Department and New Bedford Economic Development Council. Planners are seeking public comment.

Meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Riverside Park near the playground, and at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 7 in St. Anthony's Church Hall, 1359 Acushnet Ave.

About 20 people attended Wednesday's meeting; public officials outnumbered residents about 2-to-1. Those attending included Ward 1 City Councilor Linda M. Morad and Ward 2 City Councilor Steven Martins. Most of the affected area is in Mr. Martins' ward.

Derek Santos of the Economic Development Council noted the relatively sparse attendance at the meeting, held in the Brooklawn Park Community Center. "Most important to us is the quality of the exchange" of participants, Mr. Santos said, "not the quantity."

Jennifer Gonsalves, vice chairwoman of the Planning Board, said she does not remember ever having access to the waterfront along the upper harbor, and believes the current effort "represents an incredible opportunity."

The upper harbor waterfront is dominated by old mills. The neighborhood is delineated by the river to the east, Acushnet Avenue to the west, Wood Street to the north and Coggeshall Street to the south.

Residents who attended the meeting indicated that they are interested in having a walking path along the river, and comparisons were made to paths along waterways in Rhode Island and Maine.

Residents also expressed interest in efforts to upgrade Acushnet Avenue as a shopping and cultural center.

City Planner David Kennedy said that business district has been studied for 30 years. Mr. Kennedy said it has among its assets 300 stores with no more than a 10 percent vacancy rate, and public transportation along its length.

Ms. Morad suggested an effort to bring "design unity" to the avenue, possibly with new lights, planters and banners. Ms. Morad also represents the North End Business Association, and said making the avenue one-way

MOST VIEWED STORIES

Fairhaven man dies from motorcycle crash injuries

Flood damage 'looked like Katrina'

Dartmouth pilot confident, puts faith in God

Summer home struck by lightning

A flood of reader photos

Civilian flaggers may be directing traffic by October

New Bedford officials address Pulaski concerns

deserves consideration.

Contact Joe Cohen at jcohen@s-t.com

Appendix B – Weekly Compass Article

Beyond My Microphone



By M.J. Carvalho

In continuing to bring development and betterment to our city, the Planning Department, Planning Board and the Office of Economic Development have joined forces and prepared the Upper Harbor Vision Plan. The boundaries of the area encompass: Acushnet River west to Acushnet Avenue; from Coggeshall Street north to Wood Street. However, the boundary lines are not finite and the former Reliable Truss site, Hicks Logan Sawyer District, Harbor Plan and Brooklawn Park are also taken into consideration.

building blocks of a community. Neighborhood planning requires personal knowledge of the economic, social, and physical characteristics of the area, and the people who know these issues best are those who live there. It is essential to gather input from the residents to ensure that the fabric of the community is maintained and integrated into the Upper Harbor Vision Plan."

To that end, three meetings have been scheduled: Wednesday, July 30th at 6:00 pm at the Brooklawn Senior Center; Saturday, August 2nd at 9:30 am at Riverside Park (near the playground); Thursday, August 7th at 6:30 pm at the St. Anthony Church Hall (use Nye Street entrance). For the benefit of non-English speaking residents, translators will be present.

New Bedford residents must participate in this decision-making process and involve themselves in the outcome. Don't let others decide your future, for it is too precious a commodity. Attend these meetings and be proud to build upon a rich legacy that no one outside this city can claim. Lend your voice at these meetings and the future will speak for itself.

melhoramento de tradições culturais.

O Plano de Visão Upper Harbor define mudanças positivas para a nossa cidade. No entanto, você, o cidadão da nossa cidade tem que elevar a sua voz e comunicar as suas intenções, se New Bedford vai em frente como uma luz brilhante para o futuro. Conforme o Mayor Lang disse: "A voz dos cidadãos irá ajudar New Bedford a definir as metas para a área da Upper Harbor que podem capitalizar nos pontos positivos da nossa cidade ... Os melhores recursos da nossa comunidade são os nossos cidadãos e eu incentivo todos para participarem e auxiliarem a moldar o Distrito do Upper Harbor."

Por seu turno, Matthew Morrissey, Director Executivo do Conselho de Desenvolvimento Económico de New Bedford já validou a importância da intervenção dos residentes dizendo: "As vizinhanças são os pilares estratégicos da comunidade. Planejamento de vizinhanças requer conhecimento pessoal das características económicas, sociais e físicas da área, e o povo que

conhece bem estes temas são aqueles que lá vivem. É essencial colhermos informação dos residentes para assegurar que o fabrico da comunidade mantém-se íntegro no Plano de Visão Upper Harbor.

Para isso, três reuniões foram marcadas: Quarta-feira, dia 30 de Julho às 6 da tarde no Brooklawn Senior Center; Sábado, dia 2 de Agosto às 9:30 da manhã no Parque Riverside (perto dos brinquedos de crianças); e na Quinta-feira, dia 7 de Agosto às 6:30 da tarde, no Centro Paroquial de Santo António (entrada pela Nye Street). Para benefício dos residentes que não falam Inglês, tradutores estarão presentes.

Os residentes de New Bedford devem participar neste processo de decisão e envolverem-se no resultado final. Não deixe que outros decidam o seu futuro, pois é precioso demais. Esteja presente nestas reuniões e sintase orgulhoso de construir num legado rico que pertence somente a nós que residimos aqui. Participe nestas reuniões e o futuro falará por si próprio.

PARA ALÉM DO MEU MICROFONE

por Maria José Carvalho

Continuando com o

desenvolvimento da nossa cidade, o Gabinete de Planeamento, o Concelho de Planeamento e o Gabinete de Desenvolvimento Económico deram as mãos e prepararam o Plano de Visão da área denominada "Upper Harbor". Os limites da área são: O Rio Acushnet oeste para a Acushnet Avenue, da Coggeshall Street norte para a Wood Street. No entanto, o sítio do Reliable Truss, o Distrito Hicks Logan Sawyer, o Plano Portuário e o Parque Brooklawn também entram em consideração.

De muitas maneiras este plano visionário é empreendedor e pode ser considerado como um passo gigante para a frente em criatividade, enquanto conservando a herança cultural rica da comunidade. Nomeado alguns exemplos, o Plano de Visão Upper Harbor menciona uma casa de abrigo de barcos, caminho ribeirinho, um passeio panorâmico que conta a história da Upper Harbor, ponto de acesso ao rio e muitas actividades para os residentes. Também é incluído no plano adaptação de fábricas históricas assim como

In many ways this vision plan as entrepreneurial as it can be construed, is a giant leap forward in creativity, while preserving the rich, cultural heritage of the community. To name a few examples, the Upper Harbor Vision Plan calls for a boathouse, riverwalk, heritage trail that tells the story of the Upper Harbor, access points to the river and many activities for residents. It also calls for adaptive reuse of historic mills as well as enhancing cultural traditions.

The Upper Harbor Vision Plan delineates positive change for our city. However, you, the citizen of our fair city must raise your voice and make your intentions known, if New Bedford is to go forward as a shining light into the future. As Mayor Lang has stated: "Input from residents will help New Bedford define goals for the upper harbor area that capitalize on the city's assets ... Our community's greatest resource is our citizens and I encourage everyone to participate to help shape the Upper Harbor District." In turn, Matthew Morrissey, Executive Director of the New Bedford Economic Development Council has validated the importance of resident's input by stating: "Neighborhoods are the strategic

page 14

City of New Bedford.

Upper Harbor Vision Plan Community Meetings

Wednesday 6pm
July 30, 2008
Brooklawn Senior
Center
Brooklawn Park
New Bedford, MA

Saturday 9:30am
August 2, 2008
Riverside Park
(near the playground)
New Bedford, MA

Thursday 6:30pm
August 7, 2008
St. Anthony's
Church Hall
1359 Acushnet Avenue
(use Nye St. entrance)
New Bedford, MA

The Upper Harbor Community Includes:

- The Acushnet River
- Acushnet Avenue
- Historic Mills
- Neighborhoods

Mayor Lang and the City of New Bedford Planning Department want to hear from you. Please take this opportunity to participate in a meeting to review the draft vision plan that was developed at a public planning workshop in February.

We need you to help shape the future growth and development possibilities for the future.

Portuguese and Spanish translators will be available. Questions? Please call the City of New Bedford Planning Office at 508-979-1488.

**This is your community — don't let others control
New Bedford's future!**

July 25, 2008

The Weekly Compass

Appendix C – O Jornal Article



Falando sem microfone

Por Maria José

Como residente de New Bedford é meu dever de me interessar sobre o desenvolvimento da cidade. Um dos projectos que despertou o meu interesse é o "Plano de Visão" da área denominada "Upper Harbor," cujos limites da área são: o Rio Acushnet, oeste para a Acushnet Avenue e da Coggeshall Street norte para a Wood Street. No entanto, o sítio do Reliable Truss, o Distrito Hicks Logan Sawyer, o Plano Portuário e o Parque Brooklawn também entram em consideração.

Num esforço colaborativo, o Gabinete de Planeamento, a Comissão de Planos e o Gabinete de Desenvolvimento Económico da Cidade de New Bedford desenvolveram este "Plano de Visão" que contém muitas iniciativas inovadoras, desde a criação de pontos de acesso ao rio Acushnet, uma casa de "botes" com actividades recreativas aquáticas para o público e um caminho ribeirinho a um passeio panorâmico, que conta a história da Upper Harbor. Incluído também no plano está a adaptação de fábricas históricas, assim como o melhoramento das tradições culturais já existentes.

Não foi esquecida a importância da área comercial da Acushnet Avenue ainda sub-utilizada no seu potencial, o que pode representar mais postos de emprego para os residentes e assim abrir portas para mais companhias escolherem New Bedford como sede para os seus produtos e serviços.

O grupo que trabalhou neste "Plano de Visão" tomou ainda em consideração certos problemas imperativos como a segurança, recomendado um posto de polícia, transportes colectivos, estacionamento para a área comercial e necessidades residenciais nesta área.

Agora que o plano está pronto para ser desvendado ao público, três reuniões foram marcadas para tal apresentação: quarta-feira, dia 30 de Julho às 6 da tarde no Brooklawn Senior Center; sábado, dia 2 de Agosto, às 9:30 da manhã, no Parque Riverside (perto dos brinquedos de crianças); e quinta-feira, dia 7 de Agosto, às 6:30 da tarde, no Centro Paroquial da Igreja de Santo António (entrada pela Nye Street). Para benefício dos residentes que não falam Inglês, tradutores estarão presentes.

Este plano contém não só algo de especial e de importante para os residentes de New Bedford, como contribui também para a diversidade do panorama naturalístico de Massachusetts. Aqui está a oportunidade ideal para o envolvimento dos residentes da área, que presentemente carece um "empurrão" de melhoramentos positivos.

Falando recentemente sobre este plano, o Mayor Lang incentivou os residentes dizendo: "A voz dos cidadãos irá ajudar New Bedford a definir as metas para a área da Upper Harbor que podem capitalizar nos pontos positivos da nossa cidade... Os melhores recursos da nossa comunidade são os nossos cidadãos e eu incentivo todos a participarem e a auxiliarem a moldar o Distrito do Upper Harbor."

Por seu turno, Matthew Morrissey, Director Executivo do Conselho de Desenvolvimento Económico de New Bedford, também validou a importância da intervenção dos residentes dizendo: "As vizinhanças são os pilares estratégicos da comunidade. Planeamento de vizinhanças requer conhecimento pessoal das características económicas, sociais e físicas da área, e o povo que conhece bem estes temas são aqueles que lá vivem. É essencial colhermos informação dos residentes para assegurar que o fabrico da comunidade mantém-se íntegro no Plano de Visão Upper Harbor."

Muito está na mesa para ser digerido pelos residentes de New Bedford, e só eles é que podem dizer de "sua justiça" sobre este plano. É hora de o conhecer, e de dar a sua opinião, avançando em frente e capitalizando no nosso legado rico em cultura, tradições e herança.

Appendix D – Flier - English

Upper Harbor Vision Plan

Community Meetings

The Upper Harbor Community includes:

- **The Acushnet River**
- **Acushnet Avenue**
- **Historic Mills**
- **Neighborhoods**

Mayor Lang and the City of New Bedford Planning Department want to hear from you. Please take this opportunity to participate in a meeting to review the draft vision plan that was developed at a public planning workshop in February.

We need you to help shape the future growth and development possibilities for the future.

Portuguese and Spanish translators will be available. Questions: Please call the City of New Bedford Planning Office at 508-979-1488.

**Wednesday 6pm
July 30, 2008
Brooklawn Senior
Center
Brooklawn Park
New Bedford, MA**

**Saturday 9:30am
August 2, 2008
Riverside Park
(near the playground)
New Bedford, MA**

**Thursday 6:30pm
August 7, 2008
St. Anthony's
Church Hall
1359 Acushnet Avenue
(use Nye St. entrance)
New Bedford, MA**

**This is your community — don't let others control
New Bedford's future!**

Appendix E – Flier - Multilingual

Upper Harbor Vision Plan

Community Meetings

The Upper Harbor Community includes:

- **The Acushnet River**
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- **Historic Mills**
- **Neighborhoods**

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New Bedford, MA**

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August 7, 2008
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Church Hall
1359 Acushnet Avenue
(use Nye St. entrance)
New Bedford, MA**

**This is your community — don't let others control
New Bedford's future!**

Cidade de New Bedford

Plano de Visao da
Upper Harbor

Reunioes Comunitarias

A Comunidade "Upper Harbor"
inclui:

- O Rio Acushnet
- A Acushnet Avenue
- As Fabricas Historicas
- Bairros

O presidente da Camara Lang e o Gabinete de Planeamento da Cidade de New Bedford querem conhecer a sua opiniao..

Tradutores de Portugues e Espanhol estarao presentes.
Para perguntas: Favor chamar para o Gabinete de Planeamento da Cidade de New Bedford 508-979-1488.

**Quarta-feira às 6pm
30 de Julho de 2008
Brooklawn Senior
Center**

Brooklawn Park
New Bedford

**Sábado 9:30am
2 de Agosto de 2008
Riverside Park**
(perto dos brinquedos)
New Bedford, MA

**Quinta-feira 6:30pm
7 de Agosto de 2008
Centro Paroquial da
Igreja de António**
1359 Acushnet Avenue
(use a entrada da
Nye St.)

Ciudad de New Bedford

La Vision Alta Del Puerto

Reunion de la Comunidad

La Puerto Alta de la Comunidad
inclui:

- El Rio De Acushnet
- Acushnet Avenue
- Historic Mills
- Neighborhoods

El Alcalde de la Ciudad de New Bedford y el Departamento de Planning quiere oir de ti.

Traductores vas a estar disponible para las personas que hablen Espanor y Portugues.
Si tienes Preguntas: Por favor llame la ciudad de New Bedford en la oficina de Planning 508-979-1488.

**Miercoles a las 6pm
El 30 de Julio 2008
Brooklawn Senior
Center**

Brooklawn Park
New Bedford, MA

**Sabado a las 9:30am
El 2 de Agosto 2008
Riverside Park**
(cerca de el parque)
New Bedford, MA

**Jueves a las 6:30pm
El 7 de Agosto 2008
St. Anthony's
Church Hall**
1359 Acushnet Avenue
(uso la entrada de Nye St.)
New Bedford, MA

Appendix F – Saint Anthony’s Church Bulletin

Mass Schedule and Intentions**Saturday, July 26**

4:00 pm Roger Quintin

Sunday, July 27

6:30 am Jeronimo Valdez & Family

8:30 am Felix Ouellet

10:15 am Marcel Rogissart

Monday, July 28

7:00 am Jacob D. Vasconcelos

Tuesday, July 29

7:00 am Donald Durante

Wednesday, July 30

7:00 am Eduardo Ferreira Arruda

Thursday, July 31

7:00 am Miguel Gomes

Friday, August 1

5:15 pm In Honor of the Sacred Heart

Saturday, August 2

8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Jose Anjo & Family

4:00 pm John Connolly (11th Anniversary)**Sunday, August 3**

6:30 am Intentions of Angelo DeBortoli

8:30 am Raymond Roy Sr.

10:15 am Mr. & Mrs. Joao Maura

Financial Report**Income:**

Parish Collection	\$3,328.94
Shrines	\$239.23
Bingo	\$1,000.00
Parish Debt	\$1,811.80
Shaw's Return Receipts Program	\$1,294.51
Renovation Fund	\$26.00
Fuel	\$25.00
Food Pantry	\$20.00
Organ Restoration	\$120.00

Among this Week's Bills & Expenses:

Parish Staff Average Weekly Salaries	\$2,337.75
Parish Staff Average Weekly BC/BS	\$672.91
Parish Staff Average Weekly Pension	\$207.24
<i>(Total Average Weekly Expenses = \$6,900)</i>	

PRAYERS — Please keep Theresa and Ernest Jarvis, Paul Gomes, Kathleen Brum, Helen Bender, Claire Souza, Irene Jette and all the ill of our parish in your prayers. If you or a family member is sick or injured and would like to request the prayers of your fellow parishioners, please call Pauline at the rectory or email Fr. Landry.

BINGO — Bingo will be held on Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. Doors and kitchen open at 4:00 p.m.

NEXT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING — Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

NEXT PAULINE YEAR BIBLE STUDY — August 10 at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. In preparation, please try to read St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians. All are welcome.

NEXT SALT MEETING — August 17 at 7 pm. Jose Amaral will be speaking on "Miracles of Faith." Others are welcome to come to share their own experiences.



From
Father Landry

fatherlandry@saintanthonynewbedford.com

Workshop — This weekend I am in New York for my annual 12-day priest's course for the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross. About 40 priests from across the country and I have gotten together to dedicate ourselves to intense prayer and study so that we can come back to serve you with greater effectiveness and love. Please pray for me and my brother priests over the course of the next few days. Fr. Ron Floyd is manning the fort during the week. Fr. Dufour is taking the Masses this weekend. I look forward to seeing you next weekend!

Dangerous Curriculum Set To Be Implemented in New Bedford Public Schools — There is a very disturbing new program being piloted to some students in the New Bedford Schools. The Human Rights Campaign — one of the most aggressive gay rights groups in the country — has developed a curriculum that, under the guise of stopping bullying, has as its real objective to program kids to think that no family structure is better than another, that there's no real importance to having a married mother and father, and that grandma is mistaken when she says that people of the same-sex cannot or should not marry. It's trying to align the kids' values on sexuality, marriage and family with those of the pro-homosexuality movement, rather than according to the wisdom of their parents and grandparents, almost all civilizations throughout the centuries, Jesus Christ and the Church he founded. The curriculum is called "Welcoming Schools" and it is being piloted in the Campbell, Winslow and Taylor Schools this year, before, presumably, being brought to other public schools in subsequent years. What's really happening is that those who support the gay agenda, while pretending to try to stop childhood bullying, are in fact trying to use the public schools to bully families who oppose that agenda. I would urge all New Bedford residents — but particularly parents of those in the city's public schools — to call (508.997.4511) or email (pbonner@newbedford.k12.ma.us) the new Superintendent, Dr. Portia Bonner, as well as members of the School Committee, to express opposition to the program. There are plenty of anti-bullying curricula that could be used in schools. New Bedford does not have to use one that is a Trojan Horse to indoctrinate our children with a false and harmful understanding of what it means to be a boy or girl, of sexuality, of marriage and of the family. Those who would like to see more of the curriculum are encouraged to visit the HRC's website, hrc.org/issues/parenting/schools/7201.htm. I would particularly encourage parents to read through the following Q&A that teachers are encouraged to say to their children: hrc.org/documents/schools_Questions_Children_Ask.pdf.

The Truth That Sets Love Free — July 25 is the 40th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. The insert in today's bulletin has two articles from the Massachusetts Catholic Conference on marriage that relate to the moral regulation of fertility as well as the honest relationship of love between husband and wife. In terms of some of the larger issues of the 40th anniversary, I print here the editorial I wrote for our diocesan newspaper:

The love of man and woman in marriage was meant from the beginning to be a "sacrament" of the love within the heart of the

Blessed Trinity. God created man in his image... "male and female he created them" (1 John 4:16; Gen 1:27-28). He who is love created the human person to love as he loves (1 John 4:16, Jn 15:13). As a Trinitarian communion of persons, in which the overflowing love of Father and Son eternally generates the Holy Spirit, God created the human person male and female according to that image, so that man and woman could exist in a communion of persons in love so strong that their love, too, could generate a third person, who would both be a fruit of their loving union and a means by which it can be nourished and grow. Through procreation, in other words, husband and wife participate in God's continual creation, reflect the image of the divine Giver, and grow into greater communion with each other and with God.

Since human persons' greatest identity, dignity and vocation are found in their being made in God's image and called to grow into God's likeness; since they do that by living out the nuptial meaning of their personality, entering into a loving communion of persons through a mutual exchange of self-gifts; and since the way most human beings achieve this is through entering into the one-flesh union of a man and a woman in marriage; anything that corrupts the essential meaning of marital love has enormous consequences.

This is why Pope Paul VI's prophetic encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, the 40th anniversary of which the Church celebrates next week, is so important. The teaching of this encyclical does not concern something peripheral to Christian life that Catholics and others can discard or ignore without consequence. It involves something indeed central to a person's walk with the Lord and to genuine human fulfillment. For if the real meaning of human love is falsified, then not only will the institutions of marriage and family be weakened, but all interactions with God and others, which are supposed to be based on self-giving love, will be affected.

In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's perennial teaching that the use of contraception in marriage is always immoral. The immediate occasion for the encyclical was the invention of the birth control pill, which some theologians posited would not fall under the Church's traditional prohibition of contraception since it worked chemically to prevent ovulation within a woman and, unlike male or female prophylactics, did not prevent the physical completion of the marital act. Pope John XXIII had commissioned a panel in 1963 to investigate the question and Paul VI continued the group's work. At the end of their study, a majority of members thought that the modality of the pill made it morally different from other forms of birth control; a minority, which included the future John Paul II, maintained that the same defect was present in both: the choice to do something to render the marital act unfruitful and intentionally separate the unitive from the procreative meaning of the act. Paul VI prayed, studied both reports and received other counsel. At the end of the process of discernment, he concluded that the use of the pill was morally similar to the use of other contraceptives and reaffirmed the Church's perennial teaching that the use of contraception to render the marital act intentionally unfruitful is always immoral.

The document couldn't have been released at a worse time, at the height of the sexual revolution, when there was so much instability in the world and within the Church. Many Catholic married couples and clergy immediately dissented from the teaching, outraged that Paul VI would reject the findings of the majority of the experts. But one of the items in the encyclical's

favor is the fact that Paul VI, a man very much open to consultation and forming consensus, rejected the findings of the majority report. He knew well that truth isn't determined by vote and that he had a duty, in charity, to give witness to the truth, even if many would reject it.

Within the encyclical, the Holy Father acknowledged that married couples could indeed have serious and morally valid reasons — medical, psychological, economic and social — to desire to avoid becoming pregnant, but he stressed that they needed to use morally-valid means, like natural family planning. The essential difference between contraception and NFP has nothing to do with one's being artificial and the other natural. Rather, in contraception the spouses' reject the built-in procreative meaning of each other's sexuality in the very act made by God for it to be expressed, whereas in natural family planning, the couples accept each other in their totality, which involves God's creating woman with a cyclical pattern to her fertility. In contraception, the couple seeks to come into one-flesh union willing against their one-flesh union in a child; in NFP, the couple puts no obstacle but simply accepts the woman's God-given temporary infertility. In contraception, God and his will are essentially "evicted" from the bedroom; in the use of NFP, God's will is embraced and a couple learns to learn how to express their love in deeper ways outside of the bedroom. In the use of contraception, since the reproductive meaning of the reproductive act is rejected, pleasure, rather than being by a fruit of the act, often becomes the purpose of the act, and spouses can begin consensually to use each other for pleasure; using the other, however, is the opposite of loving the other, and once pleasure becomes the goal of the marital act, rather than "making love," the act actually begins to corrode whatever love that's there. In the use of NFP, rather than using each other for sexual pleasure, the couple begins to grow in chastity and husbands in particular grow in tenderness toward the woman's natural rhythms. There are huge and indisputable consequences that flow from these essential differences between contraception and NFP. In various studies it has been demonstrated that the use of contraception within marriage increases the divorce rate, which already is about 50 percent; the divorce rate for those who use NFP is less than two percent.

Paul VI also predicted that as the use of contraception expanded, there would be a general lowering of moral standards throughout society, a rise in infidelity, a lessening of respect for women by men and the coercive use of contraceptives by governments. Since 1968, all of these prophecies have proven true. Moral standards have plummeted as condoms are passed out like candy and many adolescents treat sexual hook-ups like casual events. Marital infidelity and divorce have skyrocketed to proportions that few would have thought possible 40 years ago. Through contraception, men have begun to look at sexual activity without the responsibility to support any child conceived and his mother; when a child is conceived, it often is looked at as the mother's problem, since she could have prevented it by contraception. It's unsurprising that widespread contraceptive use has made the number of his sexual partners surge as well. In terms of coercion by governments, we can look not only toward the repressive one-child policy in China that imposes contraception, sterilizations and abortions, but also to all the development assistance from first-world countries that is tied to third-world countries' acceptance of these same evil practices. If all of Paul VI's predictions have proven valid, then it is a very good indication, even to secularists, that his analysis of the

causes of those practices was also valid.

For Catholics, *Humanae Vitae* is not just about the beauty of God's plan for marital love and life and the evil of contraception, but about faith. Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit guides the Church to all truth and prevents her from ever making a mistake once about something relevant to what we need to believe or do to please God and enter into his life. If a Catholic thinks that the Church does not have the authority to teach on the essential meaning of love and of marriage, and specifically how contraception violates Christ-like love, then the Church would logically have no authority to teach on faith and morals at all. The crisis of *Humanae Vitae* exposed a crisis of faith. The 40th anniversary of this encyclical is an occasion for the whole Church to grow in faith and, through accepting and following the teachings of the encyclical, grow in the type of human love that will help to redeem marriages, families and society as a whole.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership — In order to keep the parish pastoral council continually renewed with new ideas and energy, every Fall I appoint at least three new members to take the place of three or more departing members on the 15 person council. The purpose of the council is to advise and assist me in the pastoral care of the members of the parish and on a wide variety of other matters. Duties involve attendance at a monthly meeting between September and June (generally on the first or second Monday night of the month), an openness to thinking through various issues affecting the parish and to express one's prayerful and prudent opinion about steps forward, and a willingness to take on a leadership role in the parish, which will generally show itself in leading a particular project or subcommittee over the course of the year. If you would be interested in serving on the parish pastoral council or would like to have me consider someone you believe would be a great leader in the parish, please email me or drop me a note by the end of July. In forming the Council, my objective in choosing the three new members will be to balance several things — skill-sets, age, sex, ethnicity, etc., so that the Council not only can represent the whole parish, but also function as an "executive team" with the ability together to get a lot accomplished. I would like to thank all those leaders of our parish who have ably served on the parish pastoral council during the past year, in which we've made great strides on the objectives of stewardship, increasing community spirit, and with regard to the Catholic Charities campaign.

Daily Holy Hours — I encourage every person or family in the parish to try to come to the afternoon holy hour in the parish at least one time a week. The holy hour is held Monday through Thursday from 5:15-6:15 pm and features the sung Liturgy of the Hours, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, confessions (whenever I'm present) and other prayers.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

July 27, Fuel — This goes to pay off our annual heating bill, which was \$129,000 this past winter.

August 3, Holy Father (Peter's Pence) — This collection goes directly to support the work of the Holy Father. The Vatican is only able to pay its bills because of this annual collection held throughout the world, and particularly the generosity of Americans and Germans to it

FROM PAULA BRIDEN OF THE FOOD PANTRY — We will need help for on 7/28 at 12:30 unloading items for the food pantry. Please help if you can. Thanks! Paula (508-994-9907)

ST. ANTHONY SENIORS — At our July 28 meeting at 1:30, we will be taking sign-ups for Foxwoods on August 18. Snacks available. Bingo will be played. New members are always welcome

PARISH PAW-SOX GAME, AUGUST 19 — The parish youth group is sponsoring a trip to see the Pawsox in Pawtucket on Wednesday, April 19. We have up to 100 free tickets to the game. The only cost will be \$5 bus fee. The members of the youth group are inviting all parishioners to join them for a night of fun and community-building. We would be leaving on a bus about 5 pm and returning after the game. Those interested in attending are urged to sign the sign-up sheet in the sacristy. For more information, call Luann Connolly at 508.995.4908.

FARMER'S MARKET COUPONS — The Parish's Fr. McGivney Council of the Knights of Columbus, will host the Community Mainstream Program of Coastline Elderly Services Inc., in the distribution of Farmer Market Coupons to elder parishioners of Saint Anthony of Padua of Farmer after the Masses this weekend. These coupons can be used by elders at the local farmer markets, the closest designated site being at Brooklawn Park of New Bedford. Farmers' Market is a nutrition program sponsored by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and the Massachusetts' Departments of Agricultural Resources and Public Health. In order to be eligible for the \$30 coupons value, the person must be over the age of 60 and certify that he or she is eligible for Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance, SSI, MA Health, or subsidized housing. This opportunity is limited to the first 30 qualifying elders. Please direct any questions concerning this opportunity to Steven Guillotte/Community Mainstream Director @ 508 863-5928

BATTERY-OPERATED FANS — There are a couple of dozen small battery-operated fans available in the sacristy to help parishioners on particularly hot days. They are the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Michaud. If any adults would like to use one, simply stop into the sacristy before Mass and you can borrow one for the Mass on the honor system.

TRIDENTINE MASS — On the first Saturday of every month, we celebrate the 8 am morning Mass in Latin according to the 1962 Roman Missal of Pope Blessed John XXIII. The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate lead everyone in singing the Gregorian Chants. Booklets and explanatory sheets are provided. All are welcome. The next first Saturday Mass is August 2.

UPPER HARBOR VISION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING — On Thursday, August 7 at 6:30 pm in our parish hall, the City of New Bedford will be hosting a community meeting to get community input on the new Upper Harbor Vision Plan. The Upper Harbor Community includes the Acushnet River, Acushnet Avenue, Historic Mills and Neighborhoods. Mayer Lang and the City Planning Department want to hear your feedback on the draft vision plan that was developed at a public planning workshop in February. The city needs you to help shape the future growth and development of our neighborhoods. Portuguese and Spanish translators will be available. Similar meetings will take place July 30 at 6 pm at the Brooklawn Senior Center and August 2 at 9:30 am at Riverside Park. Please make plans to come. This is our community — and we need to take control over the future.

CHOWDER/CLAMCAKE SUPPER — The St. Anthony's CFLI Chapter 3 will be hosting a Chowder and Clamcake supper to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption on Friday August 15 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. All profits will go to our Organ Restoration Fund. The meal will be prepared by Magr. Levesque. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 15. Reservations must be made by August 11 by calling Nancy (508.995.1604), Lillian (508.996.2151) or Pauline at the rectory (508.993.1691). All are welcome!

TRAVELING IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE — On the evening of September 2, we will have the privilege of welcoming the traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe here to St. Anthony's. We are still in the process of developing a program of prayer and veneration for the night, but please save the date.

VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR — This Thursday, July 31, at 7 pm at St. Julie Billiart Church in North Dastmouth, Bishop Coleman will lead a holy hour for priestly vocations, followed by a light reception with our seminarians in the parish hall. All parishioners of St. Anthony's are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Lord Jesus told us to pray to the harvest master for laborers in his field and this is a great opportunity, around a successor to the Apostles, to beg the Lord to send laborers to work in the vineyard of the parishes of our Diocese.

Appendix G – Community Meetings Sign-in Sheets

Upper Harbor District
Community Visioning Meeting
July 30, 2008 - Brooklawn Senior Center

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Aulelavo	133 Wilbur St	979-1488	N.B. F. Phillips	A. Loure de Barros - W. Loure
RAY KTHA Fe	133 William St.	979-1492	N.B. F. Phillips	RTHA Fe @ new8000-MA.gov
Paula M. M. M. M.	156 Smith St	500 995-1573		
Leonele Oliver	167 Sylvia St	508-998-3333		reutealver@perizon.net
DAVE KENNEDY	52 WOGG ST	508 979 1578	CAR	
BARBARA NAVOS	1089 D EWEY ST	508 995 3792	N.S. F. Phillips	
AL JEBONYUS	2103 Acushnet Ave	508 995 1357		
William Vickers	205 Central Ave	508-995-0398	Dinner Y Table	
Steve Williams	273 Shaw St	979-530-5833	City Council Ward Home	
Christine E. L. L.	167 J. L. L. St	508 998 3393	OWNER	
Ed. Carvalho	C.D. of L. L.	508 991 500 X11	C.D.	
RICARDO ROMÃO SANTOS	118 Acushnet Ave N.B.	508 996, 3673	ROMÃO SANTOS ARCHITECTS	ROMÃO SANTOS @ AOL.COM
RICARDO SANTOS	15 Acushnet St. N.B.	508 996 8762	N.B. F. Phillips	

LINDA MORA 4102 Acushnet Ave 508-995-8609

Upper Harbor District
Community Visioning Meeting
July 30, 2008 - ~~Bedford~~ ^{Riverside} Senior Center

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Christina Connolly	123 Sawyer St			
Dr. Daxson	New Bedford MA 01908	774-238-7901	(Hawesville)	drp21@chign.net
Dean Daxson	"	"		
John Fortato	123 Sawyer St	505		
ED Jennings	New Bedford MA	577.3813	Repeatably	ejbuildare@yahoo.com
Ray Kralife	City of N.B.			
Anne Wolfe	123 Sawyer St			anne@123sawtooth.com
Adam Buck	123 Sawyer St	508.264.0741		adam@123sawtooth.com
Off. Paul Dolosta	781 Ashley Blvd	508-991-6360	New Bedford P.D. Community Police Unit	
DONALD E. REI	453 LOFTUS ST	508 287 0887	USW Local 1357	DONALDREI@MSN.COM
Lisa Lemieux	458 Loftus St	508 994 4735	1199 SEIU / Mass Labor Council	liba.lemieux@1199.org
Carol Stanczewski	1095 BEALEY RD	508 950 6135		stanczewski@verizon.net
Emily G Prigot	New Bedford Whaling NHP 33 William St, N.B.	508-996-4095	Nat. Park Service	emily-prigot@nps.gov

Upper Harbor District
Community Visioning Meeting
July 30, 2008 - Brooklawn Senior Center

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Carol Steinfeld		978-760-0034		carol@fishisland.net
CHRISTIAN FARLAND	535 LANTHAN W. N.B.	781-953-4891	PLANARL BARN	CHRISTIAN@MARELLINC.COM
John McLean	35 Lucas St.	508 990 0457	Bugwood Bay Rowing Club	
Novy Dandane	14th Philp Rd Ward 1303-NB	794-202-3503	"D"	
Paul Cote	193 Oakley Blvd. W.B. 08746	508-991-9215	St. Anthony's Church	
David N. Belmont	118 Perry St NB	508 99 85 430	Cedars	DUBUANT@HOTMAIL.COM
KEN RESNDES	185 Hilly ST.	774-201-9357	BUTLARD ST. NE 16 H307E H300 H350W	BSU402746@AOL.COM
F. Roger LAUDRY	1359 Ashcroft Ave	508-993-1691	St. Anthony's Church	forlandlndry@earthlink.net
Antonia Motta	642 Coggeshall St. NB 02746	508-979-5573	Ward 3 resident	amotta@bristol-county.org
RD Carvalho	215 W. Broadway St 02746	508 979 1500 (C.D.)	C.D.	MARIA.CARVALHO@NEWBEDFORD-MA.GOV
EDUARDO BOCCAS	18 ROLAND ST.	508-995-9627	REPRESENTATIVE WARD 1	Bugdo_674@msn.com